FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Rosenberg / Sobell Committee

FILE NO. 100-107111

VOLUME NO. Bulky

SERIALS IB 975 THRU IB 1106

NOTICE

THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
975	exempt		b7D	
976	Intercollegian 4/59	✓		
977	Newsarticle			too large
1978	exempt		b7D	
979	exempt		b7D	
980	exempt		b7D	
981	Counterattack	✓		
982	Missing			
983	Missing			
984	exempt		b7D	
985	Rules of Boarding Parole	✓		
986	News article	✓		
987	exempt		b7D	
988	exempt		b7D	
989	exempt		b7D	
990	exempt		b7D	
991	exempt		b7D	
992	exempt		b7D	
993	exempt		b7D	
994	exempt		b7D	
995	[illegible]	✓		
996-998	3 letters from Helen Sobell Stanton [illegible]	✓		
999	flyer	✓		

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1000	Bulletin	✓		
1001	letter		b7D	
1002	exempt		b7D	
1003	exempt		b7D	
1004	exempt		b7D	
1005	exempt		b7D	
1006	exempt		b7D	
1007	exempt		b7D	
1008	exempt		b7D	
1009	letter	✓		
1010	exempt		b7D	
1011	exempt		b7D	
1012	exempt		b7D	
1013	exempt		b7D	
1014	exempt		b7D	
1015	exempt		b7D	
1016	exempt		b7D	
1017	letter	✓		
1018	news article	✓		
1019	exempt		b7D	
1020	exempt		b1	
1021	exempt		b7D	
1022	exempt		b1	

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1023	exempt		b7D	
1024	exempt		b7D	
1025	exempt		b7D	
1026	exempt		b7D	
1027	exempt		b7D	
1028	exempt		b1	
1029	exempt		b1	
1030	exempt		b7D	
1031	exempt		b7D	
1032	exempt		b1	
1033	exempt		b1	
1034	exempt		b1	
1035	exempt		b7D	
1036	exempt		b7D	
1037	exempt		b1	
1038	booklet			too lengthy
1039	exempt		b7D	
1040	exempt		b1	
1041	exempt		b1	
1042	exempt		b1	
1043	exempt		b1	
1044	exempt		b1	
1045	exempt		b7D	

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1046	photos	✓		
1047	exempt		b7D	
1048	exempt		b7D	
1049	exempt		b7D	
1050	exempt		b1	
1051	photo	✓		
1052	exempt		b1	
1053	exempt		b1	
1054	exempt		b7D	
1055	booklet			too lengthy
1056	literature	✓		
1057	exempt		b1	
1058	exempt		b7D	
1059	exempt		b1	
1060	exempt		b1	
1061	exempt		b7D	
1062	exempt		b7D	
1063	exempt		b7D	
1064	exempt		b7D	
1065	exempt		b7D	
1066	exempt		b7D	
1067	exempt		b1	
1068	exempt		b1	

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1069	flyer	✓		
1070	flyer	✓		
1071	exempt		b1	
1072	exempt		b1	
1073	letter	✓		
1074	news article	✓		
1075	exempt		b1	
1076	News article			too large
1077	exempt		b1	
1078	Tape			not practical
1079	Tape			not practical
1080	pamphlet			too lengthy
1081	exempt		b1	
1082	exempt		b7D	
1083	letter	✓		
1084	exempt		b7D	
1085	exempt		b7D	
1086	exempt		b7D	
1087	exempt		b7D	
1088	exempt		b7D	
1089	exempt		b7D	
1090	exempt		b7D	
1091	exempt		b7D	

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

xhibit umber	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1092	exempt		b7D	
1093	pamphlet	✓	1	
1094	exempt		b7D	
1095	exempt		b1	
1096	exempt		b1	
1097	exempt		b1	
1098	leaflet	✓		
1099	exempt		b1	
1100	exempt		b7D	
1101	exempt		b7D	
1102	exempt		b7D	
1103	exempt		b7D	
1104	exempt		b7D	
1105	exempt		b7D	
1106	Destroyed - bond			

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 9/14/59

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION - RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same SEE BELOW

975. [redacted]
976. " 1 reprint from Intercollegian.
977. " July, 1959 issue of SOBELL Newspaper.
978. [redacted]
979.
980.
NOTE: Above rec'd [redacted] by SA KARL ROBERT BUCKMAN. eat

981. [redacted] Photostat copy: COUNTERATTACK Vol. 13, No. 18, Sept. 4, 1959. [redacted] by SA JAMES J. GUIDER. al

982. [redacted] Pamphlet "There is a Third Side to the ROSENBERG - SOBELL Case by IRWIN EDELMAN." [redacted] by SA ARTHUR GREENE. eat

983. [redacted] by SA KARL R. BUCKMAN. eat

984. [redacted] by SA Karl Robert Buckman. eat

985. [redacted] Excerpts from Rules of U.S. Board of Parole. [redacted] by SA RAYMOND E. SHEPHERD. al

b7d

Field File # 100-107111-13173

SEARCHED ... INDEXED
SERIALIZED ... FILED
FBI - NEW YORK

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-56)

Date 11/18/59

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

File	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTIC IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION - RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same SEE BELOW

986. [redacted] Reprint of article in 26 newspapers. [redacted]
987.
988.
NOTE: Exhibits 986 thru 988 [redacted] by SA KARL ROBERT BUCKMAN. eat

989. [redacted]
990.
NOTE: Exhibits 989 and 990 were [redacted] by SA KARL ROBERT BUCKMAN. cag

991. [redacted]
992.
NOTE:

993. [redacted]

994. " [redacted]

995. " "Social Question Bulletin", Vol. 49 #9 December, 1959. The Methodist Federation for Social Action. [redacted] by SA JAMES J. GUIDER. cag

996. [redacted] One letter dated 9/17/59 from H. Sobell to Morton Sobell.
997. One letter dated 10/21/59 from H. SOBELL to MORTON SOBELL.
998. " One letter dated 10/26/59 from H. SOBELL to MORTON SOBELL.
NOTE: Exhibits 996, 997 and 998 [redacted]. See serial [redacted] cag

999. [redacted] Appeal from Mrs. ROSE SOBELL issued by CSJMS.
1000. " Social Questions Bulletin Vol. 49, #9.
NOTE: Exhibits 999 & 1000 [redacted] by SA J. A. HAAG. eat

b7d

Field File # 100-107111-1B174

8

Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence

Date 1/7/60

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with

[illegible]	Field Division NEW YORK

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
VAULT	Evidence & information

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See below

b7c

1001. [redacted] cas
1002.
1003.
1004.
1005.
1006.
1007.

RE: Exhibits 1B 1002 thru 1007 were Submitted by SA [redacted] sb

1008. [redacted]

1 [illegible]. Printed letter to President Eisenhower calling for amnesty for MORTON SOBELL [redacted]

1010 [redacted]

b7d

1011. [redacted]

1012 [redacted]

SA [redacted] on [redacted] ab

b7d aC

Rec'd by

Field File # 100-107111-1B175

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
FILED

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
(Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 3/9/60

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

File	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Brief Description of Case
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same -SEE BELOW

1013.
1014.
1015.

NOTE: [redacted]
1016.
1017. Letter dated 2/60 urging recipient to write to Newspapers.
1018. Copy of Letter to NY Times
1019.
NOTE:
b1 1020.
1021.
b1 1022.
NOTE:
1023.

1024.
1025.
1026.
1027.
b1 1028.
b1 1029.
NOTE: [redacted] ab

b7c
b7d

Field File # 100-107111-1B176

RECORDED
SERIALIZED

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Propert[illegible]uired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 4/[illegible]/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

File #	Field Division
100-387835	New York

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See Below	See Individual 1B's

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Vault	Evidence & Inforamtion-Retian

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See Below

1030.

1031

b1 1032.

b1 1033.

b1 1034.

NOTE:

1035.

1036.

b1 1037.

1038. 14 page booklet c[illegible] report [illegible] case to Pres. Eisenhower Rec'd by SA [illegible]

1039.

b7c,d

EXAMINED
EXHIBIT 4
FBI

Field File # 100-107111-1B177
#41

Form FD-192 - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence

Date 4/8/60

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

100-387635	Field Division: New York

Name and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired: See Below	Source From Which Property Acquired: See Individual 1B's
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Vault	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Evidence & Information-Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See Below

b1 1040.
b1 1041.
b1 1042.
b1 1043.

NOTE: Above Rec'd by SA ab

b1 1044.

1045.

NOTE: Above by SA ab
1046. 3 Photos of Sarah L. Hammond, Rec'd by SA
SA ab
See Serial

b7c,d

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
APR 8
FBI - NEW YORK

Field File # 100-107111-1E178
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 5/4/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION-RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

SEE BELOW

1047.
1048.
1049.
b/1050. [redacted] Rec'd [redacted] by

SA [redacted]
1051. Photograph of Irma Vivian Newman (Midge'). See ser. [redacted]
Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]
b/1052. [redacted]

by SA [redacted]
b/1053. [redacted]
1054. [redacted]

SA [redacted] gb
1055. [redacted] A Report to President Eisenhower submitted by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell for the period 1/1/59 to 1/1/60.
Rec [redacted] by SA [redacted] ab

b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1879
#41

gmb gmb

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
(Rev. 12-1-55)

Date 5/18/60

Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

File	Field Division
100-207035	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
Vault	Evidence & information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See below

1056. [redacted] Literature from Sobell Committee & business reply envelope. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] See serial [redacted]

b1 1057. [redacted]

1058. [redacted]

b1 1059. [redacted]
b1 1060. [redacted]

NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]
1061. [redacted]
1062. [redacted]
1063. [redacted]
NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] were rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1064. [redacted]
1065. [redacted]
1066. [redacted]

NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] were rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

b7c
b7d

Field File # 100-107111-1450
#41

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
[redacted] 1960
FBI — NEW YORK

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence

Date 5/6/60

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

File	Field Division
100-337835	NEW YORK

Title or Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION - RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same SEE BELOW

b1
1067. [redacted]
b1
1068. [redacted]
1069. [redacted] Thronatry announcing SOBELL meeting [redacted] Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]
1070. [redacted] Printed "Statement on the Case of MORTON SOBELL" and announcing the [redacted] meeting. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]
b1
1071. [redacted] b7d
b1
1072. [redacted]

1073. [redacted] Copy of printed letter to Pres. Eisenhower re M. SOBELL.
1074. [redacted] Reprint of letter by Mrs. M. SOBELL to Washington Post, 1/12/50.
NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] and [redacted] were rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

b1
1075. [redacted]
1076. [redacted] Rec'd [redacted]
b1
1077. [redacted]
NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] by SA [redacted]
1078. [redacted] Sound Tape of 5 min. interview with HELEN SOBELL on [redacted]

1079. [redacted] Sound tape of same interview as 1B1078.
1080. [redacted] 14 page pamphlet dated [redacted] captioned CSJMS.
NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] were rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

b7c, b7d

Field File # 100-107111-1B01
#41

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAY 6 1960
FBI — NEW YORK

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Propert[illegible]red as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 8/1/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
Vault	Evidence & information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See below

b1 1081. [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1082. [redacted]

1083. [redacted] Printed form letter to President Eisenhower re MORTON SOBELL. Rec'd [redacted] by S[redacted]

1084. [redacted]

1085. [redacted]
1086 [redacted]

NOTE: Exhibits [redacted] were rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1087. [redacted]

1088. [redacted]

1089. [redacted]
1090.
1091.
1092.

NOTE: EXHIBITS REC'D [redacted] by SA [redacted]

b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111 - 1182
#41

SEARCHED [illegible]
SERIALIZED [illegible] FILED [illegible]
FBI - NEW YORK

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 10/6/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW+	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION-RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

SEE BELOW

1093. [redacted] 2 eight page throwaway re Community church meeting.
1094. [redacted]

b1 NOTE: ABV. EXHIBITS REC'D [redacted] by SA [redacted]
b1 1095. [redacted]
b1 1096 [redacted]
b1 1097 [redacted]
by SA [redacted] GB

1098. [redacted] Throwaway entitled "I Accuse" by Irwin Edelman. Rec'd [redacted] by S. [redacted] GB

b1 1099. [redacted] Rec'd
1100. [redacted] by SA [redacted] CAG

b7d b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B182
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 10/26/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile 100-387835	Field Division NY

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
vault	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION-RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same SEE BELOW

1101. [redacted] Rec'd

by SA [redacted]

1102 [redacted]

1103. [redacted]

1104 [redacted]

110[redacted] Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]

p7d p7e,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B183
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 10/31/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
S 10/19/60	[redacted] b 7d

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
VAULT, SHELF____	EVIDENCE - INFORMATION

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same * SA [redacted]

1106. [redacted] Recbrd, "Sobell Records", side A: "Thirty Years (A Prison Ballad)". Side B: "My Loved One (A Prison Ballad)." cag

Rev. [redacted] Retain per [redacted] #41 (gd)

Destroyed 2/28/75 per [redacted]

b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B184
#41

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ... SERIALIZED ... FILED ... NEW YORK

Reprinted from

April 1959

The Intercollegian

THE INTERCOLLEGIAN
IS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL
STUDENT COUNCIL OF THE YMCA & YWCA

the sixth Assembly of
the Student YMCA-YWCA

second report issue

Issue of the month

The case of Morton Sobell

At the Assembly, both Dr. Paul Lehmann and Dr. Gardner Murphy called attention to the Morton Sobell trial and sentence. Student Christian Associations should study the record of this case. Wherever a possible serious malfeasance of justice in any society exists, that society cannot go long without examing its behavior and practice.

The following statement has been made by a group of distinguished citizens. We commend it to the attention of every Christian Association.

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 1, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR
Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology
Union Theological Seminary
New York City

JOHN C. BENNETT
Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology
Union Theological Seminary

GERHARD O. W. MUELLER
Associate Professor of Law
New York University

EDMOND CAHN
Professor of Law
New York University

DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS
Professor of Systematic Theology
Union Theological Seminary

PAUL RAMSEY
Professor of Religion
Princeton University

JEROME NATHANSON
Administrative Leader
New York Society for Ethical Culture

(Titles are for identification only.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .

1. Malcolm T. Sharp's book *Was Justice Done?* (The Monthly Review Press. $3.50) is a very good point of departure. He is a law professor at the University of Chicago. The foreword is by Dr. Harold Urey.

2. A three page statement by Dr. Paul Lehmann is available upon request. This is an enlargement of the remarks he made at the Assembly on the Sobell case.

3. Other sources: Oliver Pilat, *Atom Spies;* John Wexley, *Judgement of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg;* William Reuben *The Atom Spy Hoax.* Also refer to U. of Chicago *Law Review*, Spring 1957, Vol. 24, No. 3, p. 588; *Yale Law Journal*, Jan. 1958, Vol. 67, No. 3, p. 528; *Wayne Law Review*, Winter 1956, Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 85.

4. Form a group of faculty and students to talk this through, seeking to bring the intelligence, information and convictions of the group to bear on this concrete issue of justice.

reprinted as a public service by

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, N. Y. C. AL 4-9953

NOTE: The following comments on the Morton Sobell case by Dr. Paul Lehmann of the Harvard Divinity School are being sent by the Intercollegian, student YMCA-YWCA publication, in response to requests for more information about the trial and imprisonment of Mr. Sobell.

MORTON SOBELL: SYMBOL OF THE CHRISTIAN'S CONCERN FOR JUSTICE

The Christian's concern for justice is a basic response to what the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ and described in the Bible is doing in the world. Images get to the heart of the matter more quickly than do concepts, and a careful reading of the Bible will disclose that the characteristic images in terms of which the Bible describes what God is doing in the world are political images. They are political images in the fundamental sense of the word "political"; for politics has to do with what it takes to make and to keep human life human. The God of the Bible is thus at work in the world "to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:10); "he has gathered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree" (Luke 1:51-52); he chooses "what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God" (1 Corinthians 1:28-29). In this context, justice is the setting right of what is not right in the world, the breaking down of every barrier to the fulfillment of human wholeness and the making room for what is genuinely human in the relations of men in their dealings with themselves and with one another.

Morton Sobell was convicted and sentenced to prison in the wake of the trial, convictions and sentencing of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (1951-53). His case has been called "the outstanding example of the serious lasting effects of the spy scare". The precepts and processes of justice are the right and proper instruments through which human societies order the common life, and endeavor both to protect and to further man's humanity as against his inhumanity to man. But in the actual exercise of justice, human societies not infrequently subordinate the claims of justice to the interests of power, and from time to time in the course of human affairs the destructive impulses and capacities of men, their hatreds and their fears, become compounded with irrational, deep and widespread insecurity, so that the very procedures and structures of justice become the instruments of the miscarriage of justice. I say "miscarriage" not because all legal processes have not been duly exercised and the judgment of wise and learned jurists asked. But a "miscarriage of justice" arises because the rules of legal evidence and the more delicate, difficult and fundamental human evidence are at variance, if not in conflict, the one with the other. The maxim "beyond reasonable doubt", designed to keep a healthy tension between the legal and the human evidence when the question of justice or injustice is up, proves under conditions of public hysteria to be a slender reed upon which a society can rest its conscience and its peace.

All this may be granted by non-Christians as well as by Christians. Indeed, non-Christians have often been more sensitive to the cleavage between legal and human evidence in matters of justice than Christians have been. Nevertheless, the authentic response of Christian faith to what God is doing in the world is nowhere more evident than in the persistent and restless sensitivity to miscarriages of justice which cannot come to peace with itself until law has once again been restored to its authentic function as an instrument for the humanization of man in his relatedness to man.

Morton Sobell was sentenced to prison for a thirty-year term in 1951. First in Leavenworth and then in Alcatraz, symbols of American punitive power at its worst, Sobell has been serving his sentence amidst rising doubts in the body politic of the United States about the evidence upon which he was actually convicted and remanded to prison. It is these rising doubts which lift the Sobell case above the level of the processes whereby injustice can be legally redressed, and transfer it to a level of symbolic significance of the sanity, stability and integrity of the common life in the United States. It is this symbolic significance which sharply juxtaposes the power of the state and the human significance of an individual citizen. It is this symbolic significance which sharply poses the question whether any society can safely allow a serious malfeasance of justice to continue without redress. It is this symbolic significance which sharply poses the question whether Morton Sobell has not in the last analysis been caught up by forces which are so vastly more powerful and ominous than he or his deeds or misdeeds could possibly be, so that the humanistic foundations of justice in a society which has imprisoned him are at stake.

In a time of conformity, when non-conformity is a risk, students and their campuses do not need - above all things - the antidote of causes. What they need above all things is to remember that human creativity has always been high when men have kept sensitive to what was immediately around them and out of joint. Whether one come to the conclusion that the Sobell case should be reviewed or not, that Morton Sobell should be pardoned by executive clemency or not, a serious study and discussion of the issues and the significance of Morton Sobell's ordeal may well serve as an unforgettable undergraduate experience in what it takes to be and to stay a human being in this kind of world.

Whether or not Sobell is a Christian, I do not know. It does not matter. Christ died - not for Christians only - but for the ungodly, that is, for all men, Christians included. As God in Christ makes no conditions for forgiving men their sins and including them in fellowship with Him, so Christians make no conditions for their obedient concern for all sorts and conditions of men. The Christian doctrines of the Incarnation and Atonement mean nothing so much as that God who is revealed in Christ is active and at work on the frontiers of man's humanity to man. Student YM and YWCA's have lost their real excuse for being unless they are steadily responsive to what God is doing on that frontier. Thus it comes about that Morton Sobell is the next-door neighbor of every campus YM and YWCA, who confronts them out of a great silence with the question of the integrity of their obedience to what God is doing in the world.

The basic factual materials for a discussion of the issues and significance of the Sobell case are of course the trial record itself. This can be obtained from the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell at 940 Broadway, New York 10, New York. But this record is long and tedious and perhaps not the most rewarding way to begin to understand the case. For this purpose the book by Professor Malcolm T. Sharp, of the Faculty of Law at the University of Chicago, entitled Was Justice Done?, New York, 1956, The Monthly Review Press, is the best point of departure. I could imagine groups of faculty and students under the leadership of the campus YM and YWCA spending a series of evenings in fruitful discussion of Professor Sharp's book, and going on from there as the discussion pointed the way. In some such way as this, intelligence, information, and conviction could be brought to bear upon one concrete issue of justice in our present society, and some glimpse be gained of what it means to live not in conformity, but in the freedom of a transforming faith.

Paul Lehmann
Harvard Divinity School
March, 1959

There is a *Third* Side to the Rosenberg-Sobell Case

IRWIN EDELMAN

"I enjoyed far more than these words will convey the manuscript. . .
You have done a tremendous service to the
cause of human justice in preparing this material.
I am appalled at the implications. . ."

Stephen H. Fritchman, Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, in a letter of comment dated March 5, 1958.

The following letter appeared in the current (June) issue of LIBERATION:

June, the month of the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, seems to me a particularly suitable occasion for a request for help in an effort that has had my concentrated attention for close to six years.

I need secretarial and editorial assistance for putting into shape a book-length manuscript that gives extremely important, never disclosed facts about the Rosenberg-Sobell case—facts that can rip that "closed" case wide open. My immediate need is for a typist to type up revised copies of the manuscript and an editor to give it a critical look, the work to be paid for when the book is published or earlier if I can manage it—that is, if I can get the funds.

The manuscript is tentatively titled *The Suppressed Facts in the Rosenberg Case* and it centers on the defense-sponsored sealing of a copy of a secret that according to scientists had never existed and according to the prosecution had long been given away to the Russians. The gist of what the facts convey is that the avowed foes of the Rosenbergs were engaged in a horrible miscarriage of justice while their avowed friends were engaged in the concealment of information that could have changed the climate of opinion on the case—*and still can.*

How do I come by such facts?

I am one of the "intruders and interlopers"—the quote is Judge Kaufman's—who, over the resistance of the Rosenberg defense attorney and defense committee, forced their way into the case with action that came within a hair's breadth of snatching the Rosenbergs from death. My intrusion began in November 1952 when I published a pamphlet criticizing the conduct of the defense, and it climaxed on the 17th of June 1953, when a petition in my name as "next friend" of the Rosenbergs obtained from Supreme Court Justice Douglas that world-stirring last-minute stay of the execution.

Three world celebrities—Albert Einstein, Lion Feuchtwanger and Lewis Mumford—had read early drafts of the manuscript and gave it high praise in their letters of comment. Einstein thought it "excellent" and said that it had convinced him that "from the viewpoint of restoring sanity to our political climate, one must not let this case rest."

Not least among the implications is the fate of the co-defendant in the Rosenberg trial—Morton Sobell, the young scientist who is serving a 30-year sentence on the flimsiest evidence and the testimony of a self-confessed perjurer who had an axe to grind. My manuscript deals with the Sobell case and is highly critical of the efforts of the Sobell defense committee—many if not most of whose leaders were leading in the Rosenberg "defense." The defense efforts made on Sobell's behalf in the past five years have centered on a legalism that left the public as cold as the courts—the issue of whether the Government used proper or improper means for effecting his arrest. Since Sobell was tried jointly with the Rosenbergs for one and the same conspiracy, an effective attack upon the foundation of the case against the Rosenbergs is bound to undermine the case against Sobell.

The Sobell Defense

My critical view of the Sobell committee's efforts is shared by a competent lawyer—Fyke Farmer, the Nashville attorney who almost saved the Rosenbergs.

Mr. Farmer's interest in the case was aroused by my pamphlet criticizing Emmanuel H. Bloch's conduct of the Rosenberg defense. His examination of the record disclosed important errors I had had no conception of, errors which it required a legally trained mind to perceive. In February 1953, he submitted his findings to Bloch and to the committee heads, and in the months which followed he made every reasonable effort to get them to bring the errors to the attention of the courts. Five days before the scheduled execution, all such efforts having failed, he filed the petition in my name as "next friend" of the Rosenbergs.

It was six months before the Rosenberg execution that Mr. Farmer had sent me from New York a keenly observant and prophetic letter whose contents I made public in February 1953 but which merits quoting again for the significance it still has:

> . . . A funny thing, said Mr. Farmer, about all these people that have been connected with the case is that they seem not to want any outside comment or help. I went to the office of the Rosenberg committee when I first came here. Mrs. [Helen] Sobell met me—gave me

literature and loaned me a copy of the record. But when I began to make suggestions in the form of questions, I sensed that she was not interested.

Bloch received me when he was busy preparing for the hearing on his motion for *habeas corpus*. But, I was under the impression that he felt that he knew all about the case and that nobody else could possibly know anything.

I am convinced that a terrible injustice has been done the Rosenbergs. . . I am still thinking about what can be done. If anything is possible, it will have to be done outside of and independent of the Rosenberg committee, Bloch and the *National Guardian*.

After the execution, the news of Mr. Farmer's almost successful efforts seems to have reached Morton Sobell and prompted him to press for Mr. Farmer's entry into the case on his behalf. Under date of April 6, 1954, Mr. Farmer received an invitation:

. . . I want to assure you, Helen Sobell wrote him, I have the highest respect for the creative manner in which you approached the case and I only hope that you will give us the benefit of your thinking again. I assure you we will be more receptive than we have been in the past. The brutal fact remains that my husband is still in Alcatraz, still sentenced to 30 years in prison, and I must find some way to bring him home again. I need your help.

Two months later, David Alman, the national executive secretary of the committee, came to Nashville to discuss this case with Mr. Farmer. He left with the understanding that Farmer would give it thought and let him know.

. . . Confidentially to you, Farmer wrote to me, I am considering getting in the case. There will have to be some conditions, one being that I and not the Committee would control the litigation. I would have to have authorization from Sobell himself. I think I would insist on talking with Sobell, although Alman told me only his wife was permitted to see him. He said Sobell was a bit dissatisfied with his present attorney. It was my understanding that Sobell wanted me to represent him. I suppose this came through his wife.

. . . Since Sobell doesn't have a sentence of death hanging over him, I would litigate in the usual way all the questions raised in the petition I filed in your capacity as intervenor. This means that Bloch's error in sealing the exhibits and Greenglass' testimony will be one of the points. . .

I will be glad to learn what you think of the matter.

My prompt reply was that "I can see nothing wrong with the idea of your entering the case along the line you outlined. To the extent that it has possibilities of liberating Sobell and vindicating the Rosenbergs it surely has my blessings." But nothing came of it. The nightmare thought must have occurred to those in charge that if Sobell got his freedom in the manner indicated, it would show that the Rosenbergs could have been saved in the same way. A letter from Alman the following week informed Mr. Farmer that "we are uncertain of what efficiency court actions may have at this time," and that "in view of your reservations, we hesitate to ask you to give your energies now towards the continuance of legal moves of such uncertain nature."

In the five years gone by since, the Sobell committee has done precious little to bring the essential facts of the Rosenberg-Sobell case before the courts and the people. In the legal sphere, as noted in the LIBERATION letter, its activities have centered on a tepid side-issue of whether Sobell's arrest was or was not made according to Hoyle; while in the sphere of public relations its activities have been of a kind that brought it into contact with a minimum of people and a maximum of cash, the devices most used being small house parties and exclusive dinners-in-honor. There was a dinner in honor of Professor Malcolm Sharp at $100 a plate, one in honor of Senator William Langer at $100 a plate, one in honor of attorney Dan Marshall at $30 a plate, and others of the kind. Each of the dinners must have been followed by stimulating after-dinner speeches that magnificently stimulated the digestion of the roasts and

pastry consumed by the wealthy contributors. And each of the speeches must have stimulated sweetly melancholic sighs for the prisoner in Alcatraz.

Such was the 5-year struggle the committee waged for the liberation of Morton Sobell.

Why the "Closed" Case Is Not Closed

With their graves unmarked, their children living under an assumed name and the public conscience untouched, the case of the Rosenbergs would seem to be hopelessly closed and best forgotten. But there is one good reason why it *must* be opened and one sure way in which it *can* be opened.

The case *must* be opened because in the way it is closed it is responsible for dangerous confusion in millions of minds, poisonous confusion of the kind that could erupt with volcanic force in a time of social tension. The case *can* be opened—quickly and effectively—by lifting the lid on the extremely important facts that have been suppressed by the avowed foes of the Rosenbergs and their ostensible friends.

The word *ostensible* is here used very deliberately. It defines a key feature of the case that sharply differentiates it from most other miscarriages of justice, a feature that explains what many have found hard to understand—why it is that the case has remained closed for six long years notwithstanding the fact that it is one of the worst-closed cases in history. The key to the puzzle lies in the unpretty fact that in all this time the "friends" and the foes have been shadow-boxing in a way which concealed the most essential side of the case from view.

The issues in a contested case can generally be decided by a hearing of two sides. But the Rosenberg-Sobell case has a third side that is indispensable for an understanding of what happened and why—the side of intruders who, with no resources other than truth and justice on their side, fought and almost won a two-front war against the Government and the "friends."

There is clearly more to this case than has been indicated by the 8-year-long dialogue between the "friends" and the foes. Within the confines of this brochure it is impossible even to list the vital facts suppressed; impossible to do more than mention that Bloch's manner of entry into the Rosenberg case has aspects that are as questionable as his conduct of the case; impossible to do more than point to the long, total silence of the subsequently most vocal defenders, to the incredible fact that the *Daily Worker*, the Jewish *Morning Freiheit*, the west coast *People's World*, the weekly *National Guardian*, and a number of other like-minded publications never reported the arrest of the Rosenbergs and Sobell, never mentioned the pre-trial developments, and did not publish a single word about the case during the entire 23-day period that the trial lasted.

The third side of the Rosenberg-Sobell case urgently needs telling. It has been and is my intention to do so. But to do it effectively and to do it in time, I need secretarial, editorial, financial and moral assistance. The job I am trying to do should be everybody's business.

Those in any way able to help, please write to:

IRWIN EDELMAN
G. P. O. Box 463 New York 1, N. Y.

COUNTERATTACK

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

AMERICAN LEGION HITS HOLLYWOOD PRODUCERS

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] AND KINDSCHEV

[illegible] RUTHER, LAREY AND KNIGHT

KHROSHCHEV AND CASTRO'S CUBA

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Counterattack

Excerpts from RULES of the UNITED STATES BOARD of PAROLE - effective Jan. 1, 1958.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WILLIAM P. ROGERS, ATTORNEY GENERAL

UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE

OFFICES: HOLC BLDG. FIRST AND D STS. NW

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

*****

GEORGE J. REED, CHAIRMAN
EVA BOWRING
JOHN E. HENRY
WILLIAM F. HOLLAND, JR.
EDWARD J. DONOVAN

LEWIS J. GROUT, CHAIRMAN, YOUTH CORRECTION DIVISION
GERALD E. MURCH

JAMES C. NEAGLES, STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM K. MCDERMOTT, PAROLE EXECUTIVE
CLAUDE E. HOCK, JR., YOUTH DIVISION EXECUTIVE

****

PRISONERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE

"A FEDERAL PRISONER, OTHER THAN A JUVENILE DELINQUENT OR A COMMITTED YOUTH OFFENDER, WHEREVER CONFINED AND SERVING A DEFINITE TERM OR TERMS OF OVER ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DAYS, WHOSE RECORD SHOWS THAT HE HAS OBSERVED THE RULES OF THE INSTITUTION IN WHICH HE IS CONFINED, MAY BE RELEASED ON PAROLE AFTER SERVING ONE-THIRD OF SUCH TERM OR TERMS OR AFTER SERVING FIFTEEN YEARS OF A LIFE SENTENCE OR OF A SENTENCE OF OVER FORTY-FIVE YEARS." (18 U.S.CODE 4202 AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 98 APP'D. JULY 31, 1951.) ... . . (PAGE 2)

****

AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

THE UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE HAS FIVE MAJOR POWERS AS DEFINED BY STATUTE. THESE ARE THE AUTHORITY TO:

1) GRANT PAROLE AT ITS DISCRETION.
2) PRESCRIBE TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO GOVERN THE PRISONER WHILE ON PAROLE OR MANDATORY RELEASE.
3) ISSUE WARRANTS FOR THE RETAKING OF PAROLE AND MANDATORY RELEASE VIOLATORS.
4) REVOKE PAROLE OR MANDATORY RELEASE AND TO MODIFY THE CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION.
5) REPAROLE AND TO RE-RELEASE ON MANDATORY RELEASE.

HEARINGS

AT INSTITUTIONS:

REGULAR HEARINGS BY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR BY AN EXAMINER DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR EACH FEDERAL INSTITUTION. ... (PAGE 7)

****

OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

ATTORNEYS, RELATIVES AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS DESIRING TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA OR LETTERS PERTINENT TO ANY CASE SHOULD FORWARD THEM TO THE BOARD'S HEADQUARTERS. IF SUCH PERSONS DESIRE TO APPEAR IN PERSON FOR INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, THEY MAY DO SO AT HEADQUARTERS BY ADDRESSING A REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PAROLE EXECUTIVE, UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE, WASHINGTON, D.C. ... (PAGE 8)

****

GENERAL POLICY FOLLOWED IN GRANTING PAROLE

THE GRANT OF PAROLE RESTS IN THE DISCRETION OF THE UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE. IN GENERAL IT IS GRANTED, WHEN, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE BOARD, A PRISONER OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE WILL AVOID FURTHER VIOLATION OF LAW AND WHEN THE FACTORS WHICH WILL AFFECT HIM AND HIS DEPENDENTS UPON RELEASE, ASSURE ADEQUATE PUBLIC SECURITY. THESE FACTORS VARY IN EVERY CASE. THE BOARD EVALUATES EACH CASE ON ITS MERITS AND ACTS AS ITS JUDGMENT INDICATES TO GRANT OR TO DENY RELEASES ON PAROLE. THE BOARD WELCOMES INFORMATION OF A MATERIAL CHARACTER WHICH MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ARRIVING AT A JUST DETERMINATION. ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO ANY APPLICATION OR APPLICANT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND FILED WITH, OR MAILED TO, THE UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE, WASHINGTON, D.C. ... (PAGE 10)

****

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PAROLE RECORDS

TO THE END THAT THE OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES OF PROFESSIONALIZED PAROLE MAY BE ADVANCED AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, SO THAT THE CHANNELS OF INFORMATION VITAL TO SOUND PAROLE ACTIONS MAY BE KEPT OPEN AND THAT OFFENDERS RELEASED ON PAROLE MAY BE PROTECTED AGAINST PUBLICITY DELETERIOUS TO THEIR ADJUSTMENT, THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES RELATING TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF PAROLE RECORDS ARE FOLLOWED BY THE BOARD:

1) THE DATES OF SENTENCE AND COMMITMENT, PAROLE ELIGIBILITY DATE, MANDATORY RELEASE DATE, OR TERMINATION OF SENTENCE WILL BE REVEALED IN INDIVIDUAL CASES UNDER PROPER INQUIRY BY ANY PARTY IN INTEREST.
2) WHETHER AN INMATE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR PAROLE, HAS BEEN GRANTED OR DENIED PAROLE, AND, IF GRANTED PAROLE, THE EFFECTIVE DATE SET BY THE PAROLE BOARD MAY BE REVEALED BY THE BOARD AT ITS DISCRETION WHERE PUBLIC INTEREST IS DEEMED TO REQUIRE IT.
3) WHO, IF ANYONE, HAS SUPPORTED AN APPLICATION FOR PAROLE MAY BE REVEALED AT THE BOARD'S DISCRETION ONLY IN THE MOST EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE, WITH THE EXPRESS APPROVAL OF SUCH PERSON(S), AND AFTER A DECISION TO GRANT PAROLE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.
4) OTHER MATTERS CONTAINED IN PAROLE RECORDS MUST BE HELD ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL... PAGES 18 AND 19

BOARD MEETINGS

THE BOARD WILL SIT EN BANC IN GENERAL SESSION ONCE EACH QUARTER AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS AND SETTLE GENERAL QUESTIONS OF POLICY, PROCEDURE, LEGAL MATTERS, AND TO ARRANGE A SCHEDULE OF INSTITUTIONAL HEARINGS. ... REGULARLY SCHEDULED QUARTERLY MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD ON THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, AND NOVEMBER AT 10:00 A.M. ... (PAGE 22)

REPRINTED FROM Labor Day Edition

LABOR REVIEW
THE KERN COUNTY UNION LABOR JOURNAL
North Bay Labor Journal
The UNION LABOR NEWS
and 26 other Labor Newspapers

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1959

A Wrong to be Righted?

"Whenever the public participates actively in righting a wrong it strengthens the courts and all our institutions. I believe that this happening in the Sobell case today."—John F. Finerty, attorney and counsel in the Sacco-Vanzetti and Mooney-Billings cases.

• • •

August 16 is a bitter anniversary for Mrs. Helen Sobell, who is now on a speaking tour of California. It marks the beginning of the tenth year of her husband's imprisonment for a crime she says he could not possibly have committed.

She is a gentle little woman, soft-spoken, persistent and totally dedicated to securing the release of Morton Sobell who was sentenced to 30 years in prison on the charge of conspiracy to commit espionage.

"The only reason our family has been able to survive for these nine long years is because of Morton's innocence and our belief that he will be freed and vindicated when the facts become known," she said, her dark brown eyes glowing with a faith shared by her two children.

Her 10-year-old son, Marco barely knows his father except through prison visits. Her 19-year-old daughter, Sidney, who is completing a course in social work at the University of Chicago, worked as a waitress this summer.

MRS. HELEN SOBELL displayed clippings questioning the justice of her husband's conviction.

Their spirits have been bouyed up by the fact that in recent years thousands of people—many of them notable ministers, lawyers and scientists—have publicly expressed their belief that the Sobell conviction was a miscarriage of justice.

Quotations from comments by these people come readily to Mrs. Sobell's tongue. She flips through a sheaf of clippings to document them.

For example: a group of theologians and lawyers, including such men as Dr. Reinhold Neibuhr, vice president and professor of Ethics and Theology at Union Theological Seminary, and Edmond Cahn, professor of Law at New York University, made an independent investigation. They characterized evidence against Sobell as "vague in character and slender in proof."

The "Portland Oregonian" a Republican daily newspaper, editorialized "many fair minded

(over)

A Wrong to be Righted? (CONTINUED)

ersons have searched the tran-
ript of the trial in vain to find
st what defendent Sobell was
cused of doing, and what the
ry found him guilty of. Some
y the American public con-
ience may be sufficiently
icked in this instance too, (as
was in the Sacco-Vanzetti
se) to bring a public inquiry
at may answer the question of
hether anti-Communist hyste-
a in 1951, when this nation was
war with Korea, may not have
een the real question for this
onviction."

The former Protestant chap-
in of Alcatraz, Rev. Peter Mc-
ermack, declared after coming
know Sobell on "the rock."
at Sobell was "utterly incapa-
e of doing the thing of which
e is charged . . . Falsely ac-
sed, cruelly treated, sentenced
the testimony of a self-con-
essed perjurer, this man of fine
haracter and brilliant man still
ffers within prison walls . . ."

When Sobell was in Alcatraz
s wife "travelled around the
orld"—or the equivalent 25,000 miles—to visit with him through thick glass and over a telephone system 13.4 hours a day. She has never missed a permitted visit and he has never missed writing the allotted two or three letters a week. Now in Atlanta he works in the prison textile mill for 29 cents an hour. In his spare time he is studying the circulatory system in hopes of inventing a mechanical device to help persons afflicted with hardening of the arteries.

"He is a creative man—he is trying to make the best of the situation—but it is so hard to get the simplest reference materials to him," his wife, herself a former pysicist, said sadly. "Only when I sat next to him at Atlanta could I realize the awful physical and mental effect Alcatraz had had on him. Imprisonment for anyone is horrible, and for Morton it is completely wrong, but Alcatraz is not a place for any human being at all."

If it is so "wrong" for Sobell to be in prison, how did he get there? "My husband was never implicated in any way with the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted," Mrs. Sobell declared. "The indictment had already been drawn up against the Rosenbergs when the prosecution tried to get Morton to be a witness, to say the Rosenbergs were guilty. When he refused the prosecution just added his name to the indictment.

"There was only one witness as far as Morton was concerned on the conspiracy to commit espionage. He was Max Elitcher and he admitted he was 'scared to death' because he had perjured himself and he hoped for the best because of his testimony. He was never prosecuted for perjury."

"The trial could only have taken place in the time of the Korean War when there was such tension and fear," Mrs. Sobell thinks. "And then there was the fact that the prosecution in this case included Roy Cohn, who became known as the late Senator McCarthy's chief assistant. Many people feel Cohn's participation was enough to guarantee that a fair trial could not be held."

Times have indeed changed. Ten years ago people believed that the Russians were scientifically illiterate. Now William Randolph Hearst asks "if the Russians have been stealing our secrets, where are our carbon copies?" It is the change in the times, the bad repute of McCarthyism, the growing concern for the defense of American rights, which feeds Mrs. Sobell's hope that President Eisenhower can soon be persuaded to commute her husband's sentence, and that, at the same time, a new trial may be held to vindicate Morton Sobell's name.

"I talked to Congressmen in Washington, and many were sympathetic, but they said they were most concerned about their constituents. Now," said Mrs. Sobell, "I am going to the constituents asking them to please write their Senators and Congressmen for a review of the case."

REPRINTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, New York City AL 4-9983

From a mother

and a wife

"We Turn to You for Help NOW!"

Dear Friends:

During these last nine years we have told tens of thousands of people, in hundreds of cities, of Morton's innocence. Now many voices condemn the trial and the sentence, but for us there is only one dream, as yet unfulfilled. We want Morton home, in freedom and in honor. Our strength, and Morton's, has been sorely tested. We turn to you for help. Will you please help now?

Rose Sobell Helen Sobell

ACT NOW! to help right the injustice described in the article reprinted above

Fill Out and Mail Today

Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
Room D, 940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

☐ Please send me more information.
☐ I am writing a letter to President Eisenhower, asking him to commute Morton Sobell's sentence, and to my Senators and Congressman asking them to recommend such a commutation to the President.

I am enclosing my contribution of $..... to help the appeals in behalf of Morton Sobell.

Name .....

Address .....

City and State .....

Social Questions Bulletin

The Methodist Federation for Social Action an unofficial membership organization, founded in 1907, seeks to deepen within the Church, the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discrimination and privilege. In seeking these objectives the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, preferring social changes by democratic decisions, not by violence.

Volume 49 DECEMBER, 1959 Number 9

Christmas and the Case of Morton Sobell

Christmastide in America is traditionally a time when Americans who prize individual liberty as a key possession, speak out in conscience on behalf of prisoners or mercy or both. It is a time when, in the past, Presidents imbued or in love with our precious libertarian heritage, have commuted such sentences mercifully.

All of this is appropriate. For Christmas is not really about commercially exploited tinsel and Santa Claus. It is about justice and mercy and love. It is most of all about Jesus, in whom those qualities of the eternal God came to earth in the fullness of time, and dwelt among us incarnate and humanized.

We know nothing of Christmas who ignore Jesus, and the justice and mercy and love, he demanded for every man. Jesus taught that the life of one person is more precious and of greater consequence than all the material possessions of an entire world. The God Jesus knew and proclaimed as Father was one whose will was that not one of the least of his children, the persons of earth, should perish.

We should, Jesus held, visit the sick and imprisoned in their affliction. By whether or how we do so, Jesus taught, our lives (and those of the nations) would be judged. To visit or speak for prisoners is to visit or speak for him: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." As this Bulletin's front page masthead shows, MFSA fosters "social action in the spirit of Jesus," who demands love, or justice and mercy, for every individual and for every prisoner.

This brings us to the case of Morton Sobell in the Atlanta federal penitentiary, of whom his wife writes: "Morton went into prison when he was 33 years old. Today he is 42." He is serving a thirty year prison sentence. Was the trial fair? Was the sentence just, merciful, loving?

Some statements by careful students of the case, give us pause. One comes from the Nobel prize atomic scientist, Harold C. Urey:

> On reading through the record of the trial again I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done. There is no question but that Morton Sobell should have a new trial.

Writes Benjamin Ginzburg, Former Research Director for the U. S. Senate Subcommittee of Constitutional Rights:

> At the Rosenberg-Sobell trial the ideological passions were even greater than those which prevailed at the Hiss trial. If by nothing else, this is clearly demonstrated by the conduct of the trial judge in meting out death sentences in time of peace to the two principals convicted of espionage, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and by the conduct of the higher courts in declining to review the evidence or mitigate the sentences.

Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black confirmed the Ginzburg statement, as applied to our highest court, by stating:

> This court has never reviewed this record and has never affirmed the fairness of the trial.

The trial judge himself, on sentencing Sobell, stated:

> The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atomic bomb project.

Sobell himself has steadily affirmed his innocence, though admissions of guilt sometimes are advantageous. On this point, the Vancouver Sun columnist, Jack Scott, writes:

> Sobell has continued to protest his innocence although confession, whether true or false, would lighten his staggering sentence. . . I happened to be reading a booklet on the witchcraft trials in Salem, Massachusetts, in the summer and fall of 1692, when I came across the Sobell file. One paragraph tells of 19 women and six men hanged as witches and concludes, 'Fifty persons confessed and were freed.' The comparison with the Rosenberg-Sobell case is unavoidable.

Sobell's own statement bears Scott out:

> We'll go back to court again to prove my innocence . . . I will not give up hope of returning to my family and working once again as a scientist. My dream is to put my scientific knowledge to use in the medical field to aid the blind, the crippled and the deaf.

But since knowing another's motive is difficult and some reader might think the real motive would be to help the Russians, we simply ask: Is there any one still left among us who really thinks U. S. national security is endangered by secrets an American can give the Russians who have been sending a photo-taking satellite around the moon?

Was the pre-trial arrest and treatment of Morton Sobell in keeping with cherished traditional American due process? Consider this statement from Carleton Beals, historian and former consultant to the U. S. government on Mexican affairs:

> Morton Sobell was kidnapped with the connivance of U. S. Federal agents, was brutally beaten until unconscious, taken to the border in violation of Mexican and U. S. laws and treaties. He was spirited across the border in the dead of night, his abductors being joined by prearrangement by a Federal marshal. His entire family was similarly kidnapped . . . No oral, material or even remotely circumstantial evidence was ever presented in court to warrant his conviction.

A group of religious and law professors, self-styled "convinced anti-communists" and led by Reinhold Niebuhr, Union Theological Seminary Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology, recently asked President Eisenhower for "commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving," for these reasons:

> (1) Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. (2) The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been transmitted by him to any one else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. (3) Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively. (4) Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison.

The group concluded that attack on America's

> Freedom without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a discipline and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

The Christian Century, impressed and convinced by the above statement, expressed itself editorially:

> We agree and add our voice to their petition for justice with mercy.

where help in the struggle for peace. "We stand," said the commission members, "For a disarmament program beginning now, and obtaining complete disarmament by 1965. Peace alone can bring the full benefit of the world's labor and natural resources to all people. There is no reason to fear the transition to a peace economy. The same materials that go into the production of bombs and bayonets or ballistic missiles can go into buildings, food and clothing, medical care, paper and typewriters—the many things that make life better for everyone."

"Lack of communication between peoples of the world," the commission members said "brings distrust, and is a major cause of war.' They therefore advanced an exchange of labor delegations with other lands, adoption by unions of positive action against racial discrimination, rank and file participation in forming labor policies, "removal of our many military bases from the doorsteps of Socialistic countries, endorsement by labor of political candidates who have demonstrated concern in ending these tensions."

The Labor Commission report concluded that "Labor can help promote world peace by demanding our youth be guaranteed a first rate education, adequate vocational training and counseling, and a government program of camp facilities for boys and girls. We must also see that upon completion of his education youth shall have the opportunity to engage in useful and remunerative work."

The noon luncheon on Sunday was addressed by Dr. Holland Roberts, California educator, founder and director of the California Labor School on the subject, "Brotherhood in Rumania". Dr. Roberts told of great progress made in all fields affecting human welfare as the people worked cooperatively together to meet elemental human needs of food, housing and health. He spoke particularly of the amazing progress made in the field of geriatrics with the use of procain to improve health and length of life.

INTRODUCTION TO PEACE WORKSHOP LABOR COMMISSION REPORT

Labor's interest in Peace is equally as great as that of any other group in the U. S. The advice often given to labor unions to leave politics to the politicians and world affairs to the heads of governments, is false advice. Today the dangerous arms race (the third within fifty years) is taking a tremendous toll in labor. It is the most colossal economic waste in the history of mankind.

Today the inability to secure peace costs the American people, and primarily workers, close to sixty billion dollars a year. This supports approximately three million military personnel, 150 billion dollars value in property and covers over 27 million acres of land in continental U. S. There are approximately one million men and 950 American military bases scattered in 73 countries throughout the world.

In the words of President Eisenhower—"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies—in the final analysis—a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."

OREGON MFSA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Oregon Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action meeting in annual session at the home of Reverend Mark and Dr. Corinne Chamberlin, Gresham, Oregon called for The Methodist Church to abolish the Central Jurisdiction which "Maintains segregation in the Church". They called for an end to the present preparations for nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare on the part of all nations, and if other nations refuse to "cooperate", they called upon the government of the United States "To take unilateral action to this end, beginning with immediate cessation of the bomb testing". They asked for further implementation of a creative program for genuine world peace and called for "Immediate recognition of the People's Republic of China as the real government of this great people". They asked for the withdrawal of all United States troops from foreign soil, and for a united Germany demilitarized and de-nuclearized. They pointed out in their resolution that, "Trust, rather than fear is essential in relationships between nations as between individuals". They said further that the present "Military methods relying as they do on the threats horror of the H bomb are self-nullifying through fear and suspicion and tend to stimulate other nations to similar policies and methods". They sent financial support to Willard Uphaus a fellow MFSA member, and adopted a resolution supporting him (see October Bulletin).

On action in the race relations field, members of the annual meeting authorized a night letter to Leroy Collins Governor of Florida, requesting the commutation of the sentence of a Negro youth who would be executed on the charge of rape to whatever sentence was meted out to the four white youths convicted of rape in the same state.

Night letters were sent to the Congressional delegation from Oregon, Senators Wayne Morse, Richard Neuberger, and Congresswoman Edith Green, protesting the agreement which President Eisenhower submitted to Congress under which the West German government will receive from us hitherto restricted information as to operational use and maintenance of nuclear weapons systems, delivery systems and defense plans as well as non-nuclear parts of nuclear weapons systems. The resolution of the Annual meeting pointed out that in their opinion, such an agreement with West Germany would imperil all Berlin settlements and give Chancellor Konrad Adenauer power to obstruct agreements banning nuclear tests. This telegram protesting this agreement with West Germany was sent also to President Eisenhower.

LATEST ON WILLARD UPHAUS—SOPER TO ADDRESS MFSA MEETINGS—"STRUGGLE FOR PROFIT" AND TV FRAUD

Mr. Warren Carberg, Editor of Zion's Herald, and of the Boston Area supplement of Together has done a wonderful job for religious liberty with his report on the Willard Uphaus case in recent issues. This publicity has more than atoned for the omission of a "Letter to the Editor," to which I made reference in the October issue of Social Questions Bulletin. Zion's Herald has shown itself to be in step with its great liberal tradition.

The current situation on the Willard Uphaus case is that he may be summoned to Concord, New Hampshire, with the original demand to reveal confidential lists of guests at "World Fellowship." Those who know him do not believe he will recant but will accept a jail sentence in an heroic Christian spirit. Many of us to make a personal appeal for clemency to the authorities of New Hampshire. Friends who may wish to be informed of the best way to make their influence felt may write me and I will apprise them of time and place and persons as the situation develops. Those within a day's drive of Concord, New Hampshire may wish to join the "Caravan for Clemency for a Conscientious Objector to being an Informer."

An informal meeting of interested Federationists was held in New York recently and plans were made for a number of meetings at which the scheduled speaker would be Dr. Donald O. Soper of London, recent President of English Methodism. This will include an address at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Federation in Denver, Colorado, on April 25, 1960. Dr. Soper is scheduled to give the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale the week preceding. Dr. Soper is the famous West End Methodist preacher who carries the whole gospel, including the Social Gospel to Hyde Park, among other places. He shares the Federation objectives for a Christian Social Order.

Every so often, speaking of objectives, someone suggests a change in the MFSA statement concerning the "struggle for profit." Of course, a better statement might be made, but any failure to challenge the economic base of our society would be a serious concession to the status quo and the selfish interests which profit by it. In this connection a recent column by Walter Lippman on the Television Quiz cheating is revealing. Lippman says, "The size of the fraud is a bitter reflection on the moral condition of our society. The principle of that policy is that for all practical purposes television shall be operated wholly for private profit. The alternative, which is practiced in one form or another in almost every other civilized country, is not for private profit but for public service."—LOYD F. WORLEY, 575 Farmington Avenue, Hartford 5, Conn.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The third part of the threefold challenge from the Soviet government and people that Premier Khrushchev left with us is to join in mutually beneficial competition to show whose way of life can contribute more to meeting the "material and spiritual needs" of mankind and to the development of all the capacities of all the human race. This part of the challenge did not get as many headlines as the other two.

The purpose of this proposal is to put concrete content into the term peaceful coexistence. Without this it becomes just another pious phrase. Premier Khrushchev recognized this danger in his article on peaceful coexistence in Foreign Affairs.

This proposal for friendly competition has its background in the industrial development of the Soviet Union. A guiding slogan for finishing the first Five Year Plan on time was "To overtake and surpass the leading industrial nations particularly the United States." To produce excellence and speed in production, friendly competitive contests were carried on between plants, departments, shops and workers. They still are. This procedure is generally called "socialist competition". It is a combination of competition and cooperation because methods are shared and results are pooled, to the benefit of all concerned.

The proposed international competition would be mutually beneficial to both sides. It would increase the trade that would help each side develop more economic strength as mutual economic relations did in the early thirties. In this process the tensions surviving from the cold war would be lessened according to the principle that mutually beneficial trade increases understanding and goodwill. Premier Khrushchev mentioned this in presenting his proposal to the U. N. To succeed in its purpose of showing the full strength of each system to the world this mutually beneficial competition has to become cooperative. This it would do as Premier Khrushchev pointed out, by removing international restrictions on trade and cultural exchange, and refraining from conducting the ideological discussion in the cold war manner of name calling and accusations. This cooperative competition is what friendship between the United States and the Soviet Union means today.

The larger and longer significance of this challenge to competitive, mutually beneficial coexistence is that it offers the only way to change the social order without the armed conflict which today means nuclear war. The long and widely accepted belief that this cannot be done has now to yield to the categorical imperative that it has to be done because, as both sides admit, neither can win a nuclear war.

The first response to this part of the Soviet challenge, according to Reston of the N. Y. Times, came before Premier Khrushchev arrived. It was formed to his expected proffer.

> "He will undoubtedly be told that he can have all the peaceful competition he wants provided it is really peaceful and not interrupted by Communist military pressure as in the present situation in Laos . . . without the elimination of pressure no amount of talk about peaceful competition is likely to lessen the friction between the two worlds."

In implying Soviet responsibility the State Department admitted it had no evidence and none has been found since. Also the Soviet Government had just proposed an international commission to settle the Laos dispute. Total disarmament would automatically end the question of military pressure, just as it would end the rearmament of Germany and change the Soviet attitude toward ending the crisis in Western Europe.

After Premier Khrushchev arrived, Vice-President Nixon is reported on October 7, in Washington to have challenged the Soviet Union to renounce subversion as well as open aggression so that "peaceful competition can remain peaceful." He said no word about our renouncing subversion.

> "If competition between nations is to remain peaceful there must be rules of the game to which we all subscribe."

The Soviet Union would naturally reply that these rules should be drafted by the international organization composed of all nations it proposed should be set up to establish and regulate the control and inspection required for total disarmament. The Vice-President next suggested:

> "that we broaden the competition to include the higher cultural and spiritual values that characterize the true forward march of our civilization."

Could it be that the Vice-President has never read Premier Khrushchev's repeated insistence on competition in meeting the "material and spiritual needs" of mankind?

On Nov. 4 in Los Angeles, the Vice-President enlarged his distortions of Premier Khrushchev's challenge:

> ". . . the greatest mistake is to meet the Communists on the ground of atheistic materialism. Man needs a higher purpose in life than the satisfaction of his material needs."

He added that we should welcome Premier Khrushchev's challenge to peaceful competition and declared: "The Russian people and our people will never stand for being second best."

This puts the issue of the technical and moral strength of our economic and social order on the level of the cheer leader at a college football game.

On almost the same level according to the N. Y. Times our U. N. Delegation leader Lodge accepted the Soviet challenge to peaceful competition in many fields but told the American people they must work hard to make their own system succeed.

Briefing the National Association of Broadcasters on our foreign policy, on October 16, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Andrew H. Berding, who shapes all the Department's Public Relations declared that:

> "Peaceful Coexistence is a Soviet device to stay out of war, or to postpone conflict, while the international Communist movement continues its manifest and manifold efforts to bring about the world-wide triumph of communism over capitalism."

Does this mean that a majority in the State Department would rather have nuclear war than peaceful competitive coexistence?

Berding went on to describe this kind of coexistence as both "a prolonged armistice" and a "truce". This nonsense comes from the error of separating one part of the Soviet proposal from the other two. How can total disarmament be either a truce or a prolonged armistice?

The deepest significance of the Soviet challenge to friendly competition in meeting the material and spiritual needs of mankind is that it would halt the present trend toward the destruction of civilization and the return to barbarism. One of the warning signs of our times is how far the erosion of civilization has gone in our minds and spirits by apathy to the consequences of the use of more and more deadly weapons against non-combatants.

In Korea we burned to death with jellied gasoline innocent men, peasants with their wives and children, their live stock and crops, and their homes. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki we blasted with atomic fire thousands of men, women and children who had never lifted a hand against us, disfigured thousands more, and poisoned the blood stream and genetic capacities of other thousands. The fact that we tolerate preparations to do this on a hundred times larger scale means that the spirit of barbarism is still within us. The beginning of the humane spirit which is the moral dynamic of civilization in the relations between social groups was when warring tribes discovered that wars of extermination were too costly in the loss of needed lives. Do we have to wait for more and greater Hiroshimas to prove that fact to us?

It is not barbarian hordes from without that we have to fear, but the spirit of barbarism concealed beneath the indifference to the meaning of our stockpile of H bombs and rocket missiles. This situation calls upon each of us to examine his own conscience and conduct, and upon all religious leaders to ask themselves whether their religion is using its full strength to halt the return to barbarism.—H.F.W.

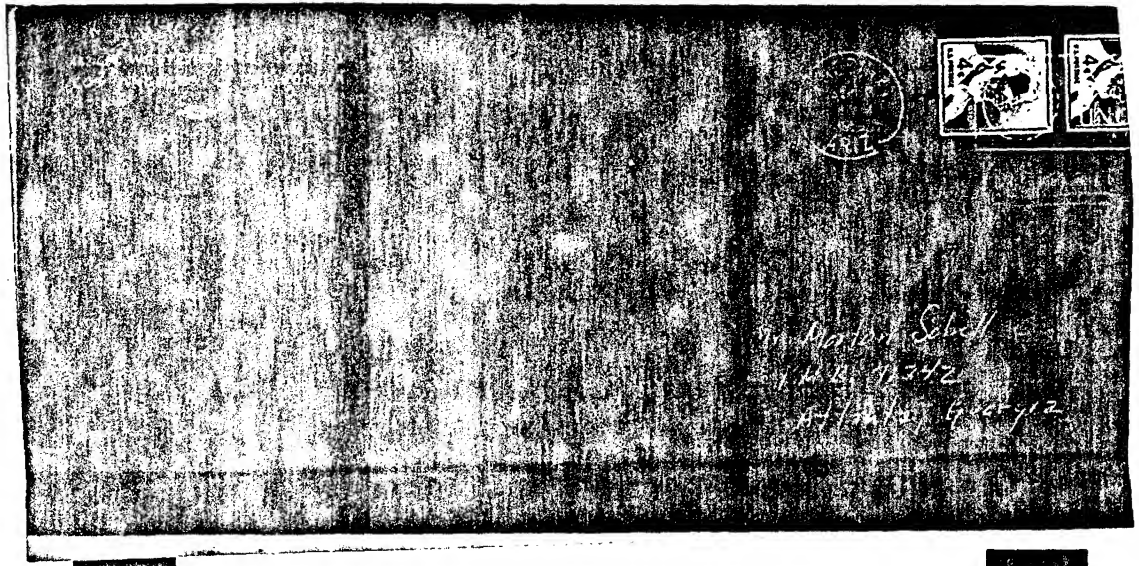
Dear Dr. Worley:

I have several times failed you badly enough that it would seem you ought to have given me up, but if you haven't yet reached that point, I am willing to go on and try to do the best I can. Time and again I have been disappointed in my ability to carry out my plans as I had hoped. It may be that I may be able to get to Denver for the meeting there. I have some very good friends there that I am very anxious to see about that time.

Enclosed find check for the Federation.

With gratitude to you for the kind of leadership you have been providing the Federation, and to your associates as well.

IRWIN R. BEILER, Meadville, Pa.


Mr. Martin Schol
1 Lu R. 11342
Atlanta, Georgia

71342

Mon. Night 8:45 P.M.
Oct 20, 1958 A 115

45

MRS. MORTON SOBELL 30 Charlton Street New York 14, N.Y.

My own most dearly beloved Morty,

Our TV program was a great success and I have heard many, many very complimentary things on my handling of the questions, appearance, and everything. It ended up that I was questioned by a panel of 4 "experts," Dr. Smith from the Correctional Dept. in Sacramento, Mr. [illegible] who was one of the [illegible] prosecutors against Chessman, a psychiatrist, Dr. Stone, and a civil libertarian, [illegible]. The whole program was on a very high level and [illegible] were almost respectful. I felt very [illegible] began, but it was quite a dream altogether. [illegible] I had spoken to the forum of the [illegible] and had gone quite well except [illegible] could [illegible] mentioned that I had [illegible] from the time you were [illegible] to stop for [illegible]

[illegible] the TV interview [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] I hope [illegible] you and you are [illegible]

[illegible]

October [illegible], 1959 [illegible]

[illegible]

MRS. MORTON SOBELL 30 Charlton Street New York 14, N.Y.

My own sweetest Morty,

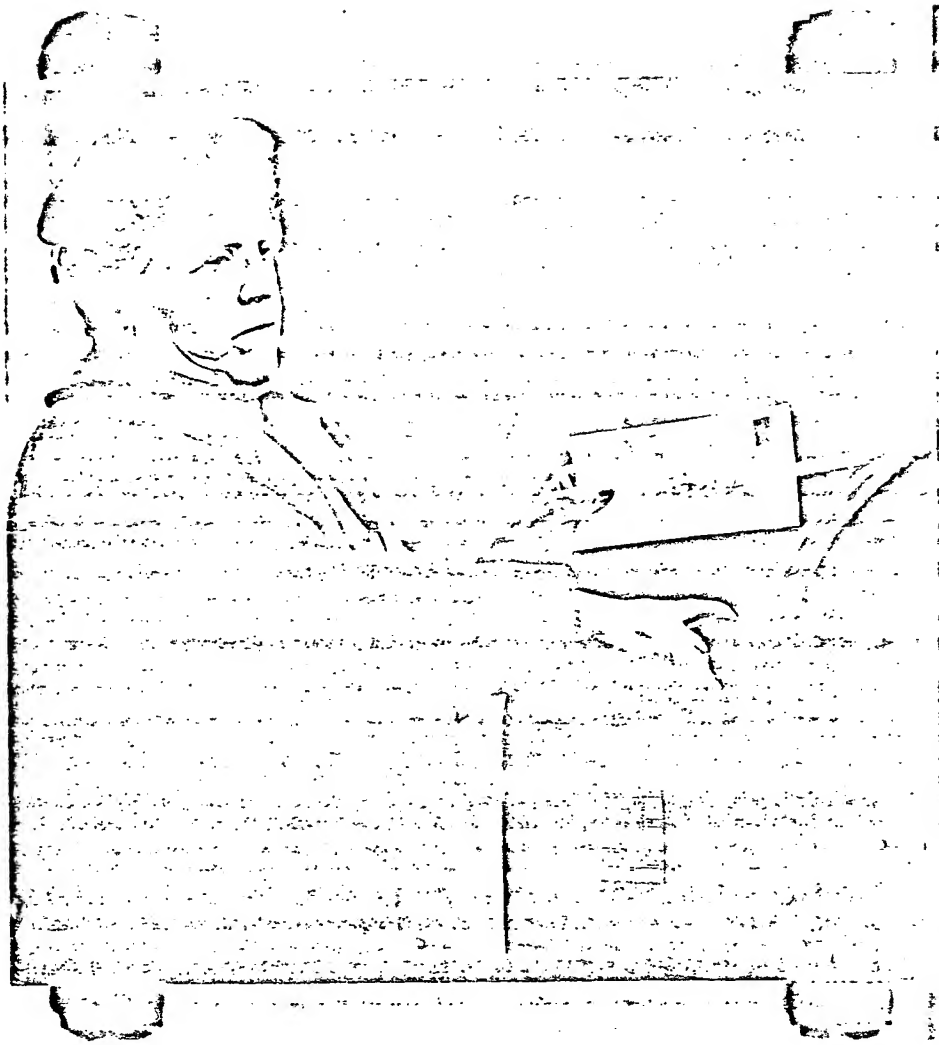
Today I finally called and received confirmation of my TV broadcast, so now everything is set. I knew it was set, and yet, there was always the possibility of its falling through too. I spent most of the day at the [illegible] today, being checked up, and so I took very virtuous, but it was very tiring and energy consuming. Anyhow I'm pretty much all right except that old pain in my left side, which precipitately my secretary is acting up a little, and I should really check a little further into that. And my last operation did no good at all, or else the condition has repeated itself in a little different location. But with all of this, I'm really in good condition, so don't [illegible] just to take this as a report on me, and not cause for worry. In fact [illegible] I was electrocardiographed, blood tested, and fluoroscoped, checked for [illegible] and examined literally, for the first time since I was last hospitalized, I have a feeling of being a guinea pig. I'll be [illegible]

A funny thing. [illegible] on [illegible], and I asked him if he didn't read the story of how it was that [illegible] came to be living with a [illegible] and how he found him in the Dolomites. Afterwards he was in the [illegible] to me, that he knew that I was taking a point because he [illegible] I [illegible] took about it. "But what did you learn about a herd of cattle" [illegible] me. "Cattle, I didn't say anything about cattle." "Oh yes you did" [illegible] "Oh, the man in the Dolomites." "Yes." So there we have it, a real live [illegible] not I just really do a lot of [illegible] up on to my figures. I [illegible] many things, but I've been putting off getting them down specifically, I [illegible] because I wasn't sure everything would work out all right. It turns out it will not be a debate kind of thing because the format of the program is [illegible] I understand there will be a studio audience who will ask questions [illegible] and interviewer. I hope it will go well, I think it will, but then I [illegible] always optimistic.

Today is Sidney's birthday, and it seems so strange to think back to [illegible] years ago. I remember so well, of course, not the hospital, but they [illegible] connected, and interrelated. [illegible] I will [illegible] a different life altogether, and I didn't even know you, [illegible] knowing that I love you. I [illegible] well the bright, but [illegible] I'll see you in letter.

The house is clean, and we went shopping this afternoon so we have plenty of food (probably too much since I am probably the only one who knows [illegible] the refrigerator is a 4 cu.ft. job, one which consists [illegible] well. I often [illegible] but I know they [illegible] in my right. [illegible] with the [illegible] for them, [illegible] late in [illegible] but because [illegible] work, but because he doesn't [illegible] but at least he gets it done, [illegible] will work-that [illegible] it.

I [illegible] pretty well [illegible] it easy for the rest of [illegible] I'll be fresh for [illegible], but we'll see how that [illegible] out. Incidentally, I [illegible] over-tired, it was [illegible] the rest of [illegible]. [illegible] pressure was the very important [illegible] fatigue. At any rate, I'm 12 [illegible] below my "normal" [illegible] still working on the problem, although I don't seem to be adding too much [illegible] upon this first weighing. An interesting fact that I have noted is that [illegible] nutritious foods does leave me without the craving for sweets which I have [illegible] from time to time. In every, I seem to be all naturistic, so when I [illegible] too many calories to lose weight. [illegible] is doing in this regard [illegible] tion. He has completely lost his tummy, and looks quite slim now, but [illegible] weight and height seem very much the same. It's a [illegible] distribution, I [illegible] flattered because the nurse at the scale for 99 lbs. for me to go. I was [illegible] 97 with my shoes and coat. This is [illegible] too prosaic, sentimental letter, [illegible] but that's how I feel tonight. I love thee, [illegible]



December, 1959 [redacted]

b7D

Dear Friend:

I am mailing my letter to President Eisenhower asking him to please grant freedom to my son, Morton Sobell, during this holiday season.

This is Morton's 10th year of prison. Won't you act now to make it the last? Please add your letter to mine, and help us to reach more people by sending us a contribution.

All over the country Americans are asking the President to commute Morton's sentence. Because there is such strong support, we believe the time has come when the President will listen.

Enclosed is a letter for you to send. Add your signature and your address to it. Then address the envelope to Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower, The White House, Washington, D. C.

When you have mailed your letter, think of your friends and neighbors who should be helping too, and order more letters from us.

We are waiting for your order, and for your dollars. Send them in the enclosed Sobell Committee return envelope. Each contribution of $15 that you make pays for one thousand letters. Please pay for as many as you can, please use as many as you can.

I thank you with all my heart, for Morton, his wife Helen, the children, our Committee, and myself.

With deepest appreciation,

Rose Sobell

Rose Sobell

P.S. We know that there have already been replies to these letters. Please let us know the response to yours.

Mrs. Rose Sobell
Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

Social Questions Bulletin

The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, founded in 1907, seeks to deepen within the church the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solution; and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation opposes the militant use of the struggle for profit as the economic basis for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discriminations and privileges. In seeking these objectives, the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, proposing social changes by democratic decisions, not by violence.

Volume 49 DECEMBER, 1959 Number 9

Christmas and the Case of Morton Sobell

Christmastide in America is traditionally a time when Americans who prize individual liberty as a key possession, speak out in conscience on behalf of prisoners or mercy or both. It is a time when, in the past, Presidents imbued or in love with our precious libertarian heritage, have commuted such sentences mercifully.

All of this is appropriate. For Christmas is not really about commercially exploited tinsel and Santa Claus. It is about justice and mercy and love. It is most of all about Jesus, in whom those qualities of the eternal God came to earth in the fullness of time, and dwelt among us incarnate and humanized.

We know nothing of Christmas who ignore Jesus, and the justice and mercy and love, he demanded for every man. Jesus taught that the life of one person is more precious and of greater consequence than all the material possessions of an entire world. The God Jesus knew and proclaimed as Father was one whose will was that not one of the least of his children, the persons of earth, should perish.

We should, Jesus held, visit the sick and imprisoned in their affliction. By whether or how we do so, Jesus taught, our lives (and those of the nations) would be judged. To visit or speak for prisoners is to visit or speak for him: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." As this Bulletin's front page masthead shows, MFSA fosters "social action in the spirit of Jesus," who demands love, or justice and mercy, for every individual and for every prisoner.

This brings us to the case of Morton Sobell in the Atlanta federal penitentiary, of whom his wife writes: "Morton went into prison when he was 33 years old. Today he is 42." He is serving a thirty year prison sentence. Was the trial fair? Was the sentence just, merciful, loving?

Some statements by careful students of the case, give us pause. One comes from the Nobel prize atomic scientist, Harold C. Urey:

> On reading through the record of the trial again I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done. There is no question but that Morton Sobell should have a new trial.

Writes Benjamin Ginzburg, Former Research Director for the U. S. Senate Subcommittee of Constitutional Rights:

> At the Rosenberg-Sobell trial the ideological passions were even greater than those which prevailed at the Hiss trial. If by nothing else, this is clearly demonstrated by the conduct of the trial judge in meting out death sentences in time of peace to the two principals convicted of espionage, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and by the conduct of the higher courts in declining to review the evidence or mitigate the sentences.

Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black confirmed the Ginzburg statement, as applied to our highest court, by stating:

> This court has never reviewed this record and has never affirmed the fairness of the trial.

The trial judge himself, on sentencing Sobell, stated:

> The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atomic bomb project.

Sobell himself has steadily affirmed his innocence, though admissions of guilt sometimes are advantageous. On this point, the Vancouver Sun columnist, Jack Scott, writes:

> Sobell has continued to protest his innocence although confession, whether true or false, would lighten his staggering sentence. . . I happened to be reading a booklet on the witchcraft trials in Salem, Massachusetts, in the summer and fall of 1692, when I came across the Sobell file. One paragraph tells of 15 women and six men hanged as witches and concludes, 'Fifty persons confessed and were freed.' The comparison with the Rosenberg-Sobell case is unavoidable.

Sobell's own statement bears Scott out:

> We'll go back to court again to prove my innocence . . . I will not give up hope of returning to my family and working once again as a scientist. My dream is to put my scientific knowledge to use in the medical field to aid the blind, the crippled and the deaf.

But since knowing another's motive is difficult and some reader might think the real motive would be to help the Russians, we simply ask: Is there any one still left among us who really thinks U. S. national security is endangered by secrets an American can give the Russians who have been sending a photo-taking satellite around the moon?

Was the pre-trial arrest and treatment of Morton Sobell in keeping with cherished traditional American due process? Consider this statement from Carleton Beals, historian and former consultant to the U. S. government on Mexican affairs:

> Morton Sobell was kidnapped with the connivance of U. S. Federal agents, was brutally beaten until unconscious, taken to the border in violation of Mexican and U. S. laws and treaties. He was spirited across the border in the dead of night, his abductors being joined by prearrangement by a Federal marshal. His entire family was similarly kidnapped . . . No oral, material or even remotely circumstantial evidence was ever presented in court to warrant his conviction.

A group of religious and law professors, self-styled "convinced anti-communists" and led by Reinhold Niebuhr, Union Theological Seminary Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology, recently asked President Eisenhower for "commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving," for these reasons:

> (1) Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. (2) The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been transmitted by him to any one else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. (3) Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively. (4) Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison.

The group concluded that attack on America's

> Freedom without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a discipline and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

The Christian Century, impressed and convinced by the above statement, expressed itself editorially:

> We agree and add our voice to their petition for justice with mercy.

Not surprising is the editorial plea of the Catholic Worker, long a champion of liberty:

> Catholics are obliged to regard Morton Sobell as belonging to the soul of the Church, although not a member of the body. Therefore he is our brother, and we can no more exclude him from our love than Christ does from His. And what has happened to him can happen to any of us, depending on which way the winds of the next national hysteria blow.

Morton Sobell's Alcatraz prison chaplain, Rev. Peter McCormack, Presbyterian, became convinced of Sobell's innocence, and joined the fight for his freedom:

> Many a time a man may act, as we say, 'out of character'—but to know Morton, you cannot charge him with that. Falsely accused, cruelly treated, sentenced on the testimony of a self-confessed perjurer, this man of fine character and brilliant mind still suffers within prison walls . . . I feel satisfied in my own mind that Morton is innocent, a victim of perjury, politics and prejudice. So there is a sense of urgency impelling me to 'speak what I do know and testify of the things I have seen.'

Our friend, Dr. Paul Lehmann of the Harvard Divinity School describes the imprisoned Morton Sobell as a "Symbol of the Christian's Concern for Justice," and writes:

> In the actual exercise of justice, human societies not infrequently subordinate the claims of justice to the interests of power, and from time to time . . . the destructive impulses and capacities of men, their hatreds and their fears, become compounded with irrational, deep and widespread insecurity, so that the very procedures and structures of justice become the instruments of the miscarriage of justice . . . Morton Sobell was sentenced to prison for a 30-year term in 1951. First in Alcatraz, and then in Atlanta, symbols of American punitive power at its worst, Sobell has been serving his sentence amidst rising doubt in the body politic of the United States about the evidence upon which he was actually convicted . . . These doubts lift the case above the level whereby injustice can be legally redressed and transfer it to a level of symbolic significance of the sanity, stability and integrity of the common life in the United States.

Dr. Lehmann proceeds to apply the doctrine of Incarnation, central in the Christmas story:

> Whether Sobell is a Christian I do not know. It does not matter. Christ died not for Christians only—but for the ungodly, that is, for all men. As God in Christ makes no conditions for forgiving men their sins and including them in fellowship with Him, so Christians make no conditions for their obedient concern for all sorts and conditions of men. The Christian doctrines of the Incarnation and Atonement mean nothing so much as that God as revealed in Christ is active and at work on the frontiers of man's humanity to man . . . Morton Sobell is the next-door neighbor who confronts (us as Christians) out of a great silence with the question of integrity and of (our) obedience to what God is doing in the world.—I can imagine groups spending a series of evenings in fruitful discussion of Professor Sharp's book (Law Professor Malcolm Sharp's Was Justice Done? with introduction by Dr. Harold C. Urey, analysis of the Rosenberg-Sobell trial and case) and going on from there as the discussion pointed the way. In some such way as this, intelligence, information, and conviction could be brought to bear upon one concrete issue of justice in our present society, and some glimpse be gained of what it means to live not in conformity, but in the freedom of a transforming faith.

We agree with the appeal of clergymen, including a number of MFSAers, directed to the President, and asking him, in the name of mercy, to use his "great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence." We are not experts on the case of Morton Sobell. But we believe our nation, and its libertarian reputation, can only gain if the President either commutes Morton Sobell's long and hard sentence, or grants him the privilege of a new trial in today's more dispassionate atmosphere. It would be an appropriate Christmas act of justice, mercy, and love. We join in urging that course on President Eisenhower and suggest that you, by letter, do the same.—J.R.M.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN

$2.00 per year — 25c per copy

Issued monthly, October through May, and one summer issue.

METHODIST FEDERATION for SOCIAL ACTION

An unofficial fellowship founded in 1907.

President, Dr. Lloyd F. Worley; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Frederick E. Ball, Rev. Arthur Crawford, Rev. Clarence T. E. Nelson, Rev. Elwin E. Wilson; Recording Secretariat, Mrs. Ella Mulkey, Miss Janice Roberts; Treasurer, Rev. Edward L. Peet.

Acting Executive Secretary, Rev. Lee H. Ball

Membership and West Coast Field Secretary, Rev. Mark A. Chamberlin

Editor, "Social Questions Bulletin," Rev. Jack R. McMichael

Editorial Office and Office of Publication

P. O. Box 827, Gresham, Oregon.

Re-entered as second class matter Sept. 15, 1955, at the Postoffice at Gresham, Oregon, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

OREGON MFSA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL PEACE WORKSHOP

The third annual Peace Workshop of the Oregon Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action closed a successful two day conference at the Washington Hotel in downtown Portland Sunday afternoon, October 25th with reports from the five commissions being presented for adoption.

The commission on civil liberties, Mr. John Caughlan, Seattle attorney, Chairman, declared in part: "The urgency of the problem of peace in an age when Man has achieved the mastery of weapons of annihilation requires a new dedication to the basic principles of civil liberties . . . only a full, free and public discussion and appraisal of the questions facing the nation and the world can insure peace and human survival." The conference adopted the commission's recommendation calling for the repeal of the Griffith-Landrum "anti-labor" bill which they said: "Makes second class citizens out of union members by denying them constitutional rights guaranteed to all the nation." Immediate abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, abrogation of the Attorney-General's list of "subversive" organizations, a five year statute of limitations for all foreign born indicted under the McCarran Act were also approved by the conference.

The commission on cultural relations with Mr. Howard Glazer, Portland architect, Chairman, recommended the establishment of a permanent committee with Mrs. Edna Smith, Chairman, to form a representative group of citizens to encourage and assist exchange of cultural groups with other nations.

The committee was authorized to contact the United States State Department to determine the possibility of Portland's being included in any West Coast itinerary of artists from other lands. Invitation to trade and professional groups in various countries to visit Portland was urged as well as efforts to secure cultural exhibits exchange. Unanimous approval was expressed for presentation of such programs as the Moiseyev Dancers on the Ed Sullivan TV program. A request to KHTV, channel 27 of Portland was authorized, asking them to investigate the possibility of arranging for an exchange of TV artists and films from other nations.

The commission on the United Nations and international law with Mr. Mel London, Portland trade union member, Chairman, called for the recognition of the Peoples' Republic of China with all trade and travel barriers eliminated, and admission into the United Nations.

The commission on the economics of peace making with Mrs. Margaret Jean Schuddakopf, Tacoma, Washington educator, Chairman, pledged support to those representatives of the people who would vote, "To discontinue production of war materials and end U. S. overseas military bases and all foreign military aid." Transition from a war economy to a peace time economy should include, the commission pointed out, aid to education, slum clearance and urban renewal with a vast program of public works development and extension of hydroelectric power projects. Subsidies should be granted for cultural programs of a varied nature. Social security and unemployment systems should be changed, they said, to make payments commensurate with human need. They called for shortening of the work week, and a guaranteed annual wage for all workers.

The commission on labor with Mr. James Fantz, Portland, international representative of the Longshoremen and Warehouse Workers' Union, Chairman, considered that the "Pressure on labor in a war economy is the basis for restrictive labor legislation, and loss of fundamental rights to educate, organize and raise standards of living for millions of workers."

They therefore recommended strongly that workers every-

where help in the struggle for peace. "We stand," said the commission members, "For a disarmament program beginning now, and obtaining complete disarmament by 1965. Peace alone can bring the full benefit of the world's labor and natural resources to all people. There is no reason to fear the transition to a peace economy. The same materials that go into the production of bombs and bayonets or ballistic missiles can go into buildings, food and clothing, medical care, paper and typewriters—the many things that make life better for everyone."

"Lack of communication between peoples of the world," the commission members said, "brings distrust, and is a major cause of war." They therefore advanced an exchange of labor delegations with other lands, adoption by unions of positive action against racial discrimination, rank and file participation in forming labor policies, "removal of our many military bases from the doorsteps of Socialistic countries, endorsement by labor of political candidates who have demonstrated concern in ending these tensions."

The Labor Commission report concluded that "Labor can help promote world peace by demanding our youth be guaranteed a first rate education, adequate vocational training and counseling, and a government program of camp facilities for boys and girls. We must also see that upon completion of his education youth shall have the opportunity to engage in useful and remunerative work."

The noon luncheon on Sunday was addressed by Dr. Holland Roberts, California educator, founder and director of the California Labor School on the subject, "Brotherhood in Rumania". Dr. Roberts told of great progress made in all fields affecting human welfare as the people worked cooperatively together to meet elemental human needs of food, housing and health. He spoke particularly of the amazing progress made in the field of geriatrics with the use of procain to improve health and length of life.

INTRODUCTION TO PEACE WORKSHOP LABOR COMMISSION REPORT

Labor's interest in Peace is equally as great as that of any other group in the U. S. The advice often given to labor unions to leave politics to the politicians and world affairs to the heads of governments, is false advice. Today the dangerous arms race (the third within fifty years) is taking a tremendous toll in labor. It is the most colossal economic waste in the history of mankind.

Today the inability to secure peace costs the American people, and primarily workers, close to sixty billion dollars a year. This supports approximately three million military personnel, 150 billion dollars value in property and covers over 27 million acres of land in continental U. S. There are approximately one million men and 950 American military bases scattered in 73 countries throughout the world.

In the words of President Eisenhower—"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies—in the final analysis—a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."

OREGON MFSA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Oregon Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action meeting in annual session at the home of Reverend Mark and Dr. Corinne Chamberlin, Gresham, Oregon called for The Methodist Church to abolish the Central Jurisdiction which "Maintains segregation in the Church". They called for an end to the present preparations for nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare on the part of all nations, and if other nations refuse to "cooperate", they called upon the government of the United States "To take unilateral action to this end, beginning with immediate cessasion of the bomb testing". They asked for further implementation of a creative program for genuine world peace and called for "Immediate recognition of the People's Republic of China as the real government of this great people". They asked for the withdrawal of all United States troops from foreign soil, and for a united Germany demilitarized and de-nuclearized. They pointed out in their resolution that, "Trust, rather then fear is essential in relationships between nations as between individuals". They said further that the present "Military methods relying as they do on the ultimate horror of the H bomb are self-nullifying through fear and suspicion and tend to stimulate other nations to similar policies and methods". They sent financial support to Willard Uphaus, a fellow MFSA member, and adopted a resolution supporting him (see October Bulletin).

On action in the race relations field, members of the annual meeting authorized a night letter to Leroy Collins, Governor of Florida, requesting the commutation of the sentence of a Negro youth who would be executed on the charge of rape in whatever sentence was meted out to the four white youths convicted of rape in the same state.

Night letters were sent to the Congressional delegation from Oregon, Senators Wayne Morse, Richard Neuberger, and Congresswoman Edith Green protesting the agreement which President Eisenhower submitted to Congress under which the West German government will receive from us hitherto restricted information as to operational use and maintenance of nuclear weapons systems, delivery systems and defense plans as well as non-nuclear parts of nuclear weapons systems. The resolution of the Annual meeting pointed out that in their opinion, such an agreement with West Germany would imperil all Berlin settlements and give Chancellor Konrad Adenauer power to obstruct agreements banning nuclear tests. This telegram protesting this agreement with West Germany was sent also to President Eisenhower.

LATEST ON WILLARD UPHAUS— SOPER TO ADDRESS MFSA MEETINGS— "STRUGGLE FOR PROFIT" AND TV FRAUD

Mr. Warren Carberg, Editor of Zion's Herald, and of the Boston Area supplement of Together has done a wonderful job for religious liberty with his report on the Willard Uphaus case in recent issues. This publicity has more than atoned for the omission of a "Letter to the Editor," to which I made reference in the October issue of Social Questions Bulletin. Zion's Herald has shown itself to be in step with its great liberal tradition.

The current situation on the Willard Uphaus case is that he may be summoned to Concord, New Hampshire, with the original demand to reveal confidential lists of guests at "World Fellowship." Those who know him do not believe he will recant but will accept a jail sentence in an heroic Christian spirit. Many of us to make a personal appeal for clemency to the authorities of New Hampshire. Friends who may wish to be informed of the best way to make their influence felt may write me and I will apprise them of time and place and persons as the situation develops. Those within a day's drive of Concord, New Hampshire may wish to join the "Caravan for Clemency for a Conscientious Objector to being an Informer."

An informal meeting of interested Federationists was held in New York recently and plans were made for a number of meetings at which the scheduled speaker would be Dr. Donald O. Soper of London, recent President of English Methodism. This will include an address at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Federation in Denver, Colorado, on April 25, 1960. Dr. Soper is scheduled to give the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale the week preceding. Dr. Soper is the famous West End Methodist preacher who carries the whole gospel, including the Social Gospel to Hyde Park, among other places. He shares the Federation objectives for a Christian Social Order.

Every so often, speaking of objectives, someone suggests a change in the MFSA statement concerning the "struggle for profit." Of course, a better statement might be made, but any failure to challenge the economic base of our society would be a serious concession to the status quo and the selfish interests which profit by it. In this connection a recent column by Walter Lippman on the Television Quiz cheating is revealing. Lippman says, "The size of the fraud is a bitter reflection on the moral condition of our society. The principle of that policy is that for all practical purposes television shall be operated wholly for private profit. The alternative, which is practiced in one form or another in almost every other civilized country, is not for private profit but for public service."—LOYD F. WORLEY, 575 Farmington Avenue, Hartford 5, Conn.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The third part of the threefold challenge from the Soviet government and people that Premier Khrushchev left with us is to join in mutual beneficial competition to show whose way of life can contribute most to meeting the "material and spiritual need" of mankind and to the development of all the capacities of all the human race. This part of the challenge did not get as many headlines as the other two.

The purpose of this proposal is to put concrete content into the term "peaceful coexistence". Without this it becomes just another pious phrase. Premier Khrushchev recognized this danger in his article on peaceful coexistence in Foreign Affairs.

This proposal for friendly competition has its background in the industrial development of the Soviet Union. A guiding slogan for finishing the first Five Year Plan on time was "To overtake and surpass the leading industrial nations, particularly the United States." To produce excellence and speed in production, friendly competitive contests were carried on between plants, departments, shops and workers. They still are. This procedure is generally called "socialist competition". It is a combination of competition and cooperation, because methods are shared and results are pooled, to the benefit of all concerned.

The proposed international competition would be mutually beneficial to both sides. It would increase the trade that would help each side develop more economic strength as mutual economic relations did in the early thirties. In this process the tensions surviving from the cold war would be lessened according to the principle that mutually beneficial trade increases understanding and goodwill. Premier Khrushchev mentioned this in presenting his proposal to the U. N. To succeed in its purpose of showing the full strength of each system to the world this mutually beneficial competition has to become cooperative. This it would do as Premier Khrushchev pointed out, by removing international restrictions on trade and cultural exchange, and refraining from conducting the ideological discussion in the cold war manner of name calling and accusations. This cooperative competition is what friendship between the United States and the Soviet Union means today.

The larger and longer significance of this challenge to competitive, mutually beneficial coexistence is that it offers the only way to change the social order without the armed conflict which today means nuclear war. The long and widely accepted belief that this cannot be done has now to yield to the categorical imperative that it has to be done because, as both sides admit, neither can win a nuclear war.

The first response to this part of the Soviet challenge, according to Reston of the N. Y. Times, came before Premier Khrushchev arrived. It was formed to his expected proffer.

> "He will undoubtedly be told that he can have all the peaceful competition he wants provided it is really peaceful and not interrupted by Communist military pressure as in the present situation in Laos . . . without the elimination of pressure no amount of talk about peaceful competition is likely to lessen the friction between the two worlds."

In implying Soviet responsibility the State Department admitted it had no evidence and none has been found since. Also the Soviet Government had just proposed an international commission to settle the Laos dispute. Total disarmament would automatically end the question of military pressure, just as it would end the rearmament of Germany and change the Soviet attitude toward ending the crisis in Western Europe.

After Premier Khrushchev arrived, Vice-President Nixon is reported on October 7, in Washington to have challenged the Soviet Union to renounce subversion as well as open aggression so that "peaceful competition can remain peaceful." He said no word about our renouncing subversion.

> "If competition between nations is to remain peaceful there must be rules of the game to which we all subscribe."

The Soviet Union would naturally reply that these rules should be drafted by the international organization composed of all nations it proposed should be set up to establish and regulate the control and inspection required for total disarmament. The Vice-President next suggested:

> "that we broaden the competition to include the higher cultural and spiritual values that characterize the true forward march of our civilization."

Could it be that the Vice-President has never read Premier Khrushchev's repeated insistence on competition in meeting the "material and spiritual need" of mankind?

On Nov. 4 in Los Angeles, the Vice-President enlarged his distortions of Premier Khrushchev's challenge.

> ". . . the greatest mistake is to meet the Communists on their own ground of atheistic materialism. Man needs a higher purpose in life than the satisfaction of his material needs."

He added that we should welcome Premier Khrushchev's challenge to peaceful competition and declared "The United States and our people will never stand for being second best."

This puts the issue of the technical and moral strength of our economic and social order on the level of the cheer leader at a college football game.

On almost the same level, according to the N. Y. Times, our U. N. Delegation leader Lodge accepted the Soviet challenge to peaceful competition in many fields but told the American people they must work hard to make their own system succeed.

Briefing the National Association of Broadcasters on our foreign policy, on October 16, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Andrew H. Berding, who shapes all the Department's Public Relations declared that:

> "Peaceful Coexistence is a Soviet device to stay out of war, or to postpone conflict, while the international Communist movement continues its manifest and manifold efforts to bring about the world-wide triumph of communism over capitalism."

Does this mean that a majority in the State Department would rather have nuclear war than peaceful competitive coexistence?

Berding went on to describe this kind of coexistence as both "a prolonged armistice" and a "truce". This nonsense comes from the error of separating one part of the Soviet proposal from the other two. How can total disarmament be either a truce or a prolonged armistice?

The deepest significance of the Soviet challenge to friendly competition in meeting the material and spiritual needs of mankind is that it would halt the present trend toward the destruction of civilization and the return to barbarism. One of the warning signs of our times is how far the erosion of civilization has gone in our minds and spirits by apathy to the consequences of the use of more and more deadly weapons against non-combatants.

In Korea we burned to death with jellied gasoline innocent men, peasants with their wives and children, their live stock and crops, and their homes. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki we blasted with atomic fire thousands of men, women and children who had never lifted a hand against us, disfigured thousands more, and poisoned the blood stream and genetic capacities of other thousands. The fact that we tolerate preparations to do this on a hundred times larger scale means that the spirit of barbarism is still within us. The beginning of the humane spirit which is the moral dynamic of civilization in the relations between social groups was when warring tribes discovered that wars of extermination were too costly in the loss of needed lives. Do we have to wait for more and greater Hiroshimas to prove that fact to us?

It is not barbarian hordes from without that we have to fear, but the spirit of barbarism concealed beneath the indifference to the meaning of our stockpile of H bombs and rocket missiles. This situation calls upon each of us to examine his own conscience and conduct, and upon all religious leaders to ask themselves whether their religion is using its full strength to halt the return to barbarism.—H.F.W.

Dear Dr. Worley:

I have several times failed you badly enough that it would seem you ought to have given me up, but if you haven't yet reached that point, I am willing to go on and try to do the best I can. Time and again I have been disappointed in my ability to carry out my plans as I had hoped. It may be that I may be able to get to Denver for the meeting there. I have some very good friends there that I am very anxious to see about that time.

Enclosed find check for the Federation.

With gratitude to you for the kind of leadership you have been providing the Federation, and to your associates as well.

IRWIN R. BEILER, Meadville, Pa.

b7D

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Many of our most eminent citizens and publications believe the trial of Morton Sobell to have been unfair, or the 30-year sentence excessive. In view of this significant concern, it is disturbing that no action has yet been taken in his behalf.

I wish to add my voice to those requesting you to commute his sentence to the time served. Even the possibility that an innocent man may be imprisoned is a terrible thing. Each added day of prison that Morton Sobell is made to endure -- and he is already in his 10th year -- compounds this tragic situation for the Sobell family and for our country.

Very sincerely yours,

Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

February, 1960

Dear Friend:

Frequently a current happening makes a very deep and lasting bridge between personal and national experiences. The events of the last few weeks involving the outbreaks of swastika paintings have made it clear once more to me, in a completely different situation unrelated to our case, that the immoralities and outrages of history to not permit themselves to be forgotten. These recent outbreaks have shown that when injustices are glossed over they result in malignant and explosive growths. Although my husband, Morton Sobell, is but one individual, and our family a small one, still the principle remains true. By defending the rights of an innocent human being, our country's traditions are being upheld.

Enclosed is a report to the President which, together with a statement from an eminent group of Israelis which came too late to be included, is a most encouraging summary of the great concern surrounding the injustice done in the case of my husband.

Since it is of primary importance to enlist additional help from the great newspapers in our country, we should like to ask that you write to the editor of the New York TIMES or the New York HERALD TRIBUNE. Such a letter, not necessarily for publication, would inform the editor of your concern regarding our case and would lead to further exploration and editorials recommending a commutation of sentence. For your convenience we have listed the editors and their addresses below. Your recommendation to these representative newspapers will be of great importance, and we hope you will feel that it is an appropriate and worthwhile action to take.

I also urge with all my heart that you continue to do whatever you can to help so that this may be the year in which Morton's ten long years of imprisonment will be ended.

Very sincerely yours,

Helen Sobell
(Mrs. Morton Sobell)

Addresses: Mr. Charles Merz, Editor, The New York Times, 229 W. 43rd Street, New York City

Mr. Robert M. White II, Editor, The New York Herald Tribune, 230 W. 41st Street, New York City.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1960.

Letters to The Times

To Free Gold and Sobell

Clemency Believed in Order in View of Ten Years' Imprisonment

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

We should like, with your permission, to direct public attention to the cases of two men now serving sentences of thirty years' imprisonment for espionage. We feel that in both cases the sentences were excessive and that—a full decade having passed—an act of clemency is now in order.

The first case is that of Harry Gold, who cooperated fully with the authorities in exposing Soviet espionage activities in this country, but who nevertheless (for reasons beyond our comprehension) received this extreme sentence. He now languishes in jail. While both Allen Nunn May and Klaus Fuchs were far more important and sinister figures than Gold, neither evidenced any noticeable change of heart; neither rendered any assistance to his Government; and yet they are now set free, while Gold remains in prison. We submit that this is an absurd injustice which ought to be remedied.

The second case is that of Morton Sobell. We agree with the jury that Sobell—who protests his innocence—was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is an ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released.

Lack of Evidence

Sobell was tried together with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of supplying atomic data to Soviet agents and were later executed. The only witness against him, Max Elitcher, stated merely that Sobell had tried, without success, to get military information from him for the benefit of the Soviet Union. Elitcher said nothing about atomic espionage, as Judge Kaufman admitted in sentencing Sobell: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atom bomb project."

This is why the late Judge Jerome Frank of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dissented from the opinion of his two colleagues in upholding the verdict on Sobell.

In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison.

(We do not mention David Greenglass, another principal involved in this case, whose testimony as a cooperative witness played a key role, because he was sentenced to fifteen years and has been eligible for parole for some time. His applications for parole have been uncharitably denied seven times. What we have said above applied *a fortiori* to him.)

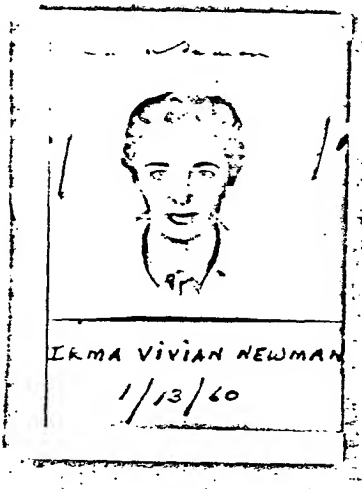
NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK, IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD.

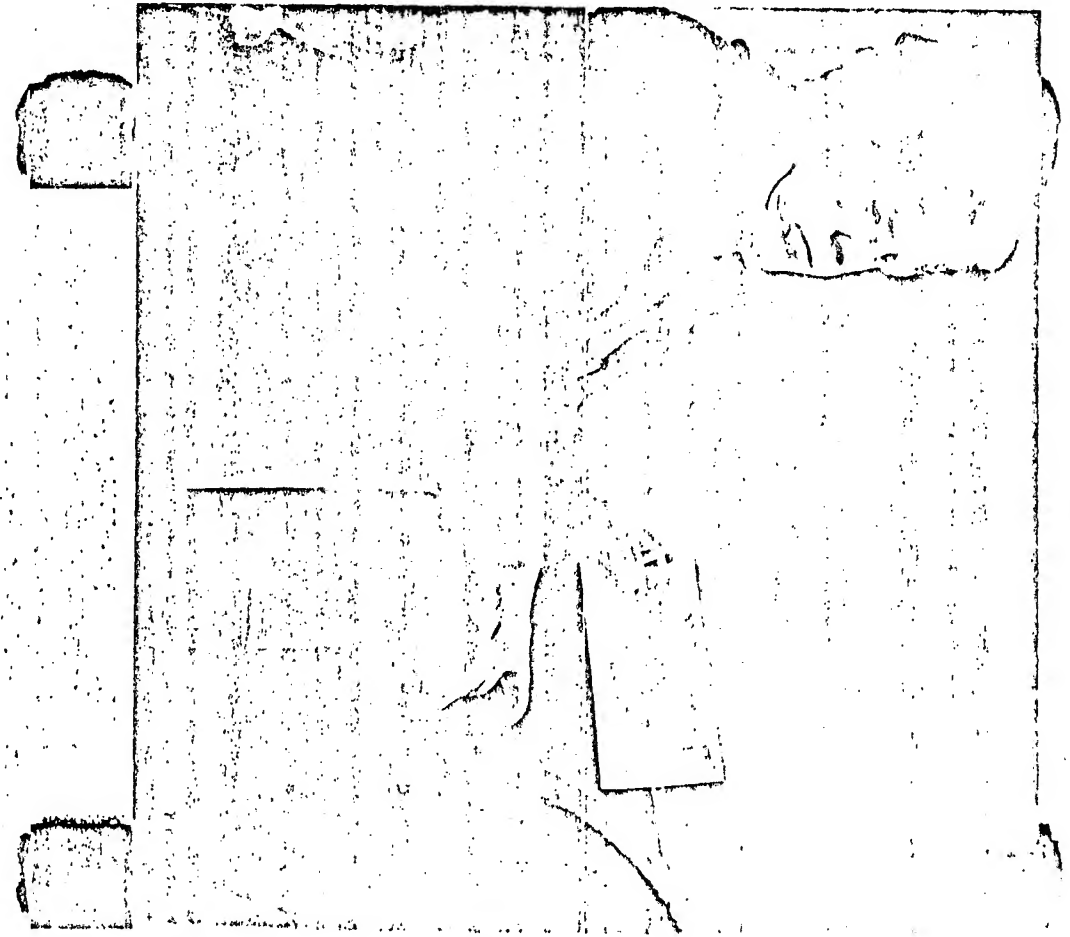
New York, Feb. 9, 1960.


LICHTENBERG


LICHTENBERG


LICHTENBERG


IRMA VIVIAN NEWMAN
1/13/60



December, 1959 b70

Dear Friend:

I am mailing my letter to President Eisenhower asking him to please grant freedom to my son, Morton Sobell, during this holiday season.

This is Morton's 10th year of prison. Won't you act now to make it the last? Please add your letter to mine, and help us to reach more people by sending us a contribution.

All over the country Americans are asking the President to commute Morton's sentence. Because there is such strong support, we believe the time has come when the President will listen.

Enclosed is a letter for you to send. Add your signature and your address to it. Then address the envelope to Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower, The White House, Washington, D. C.

When you have mailed your letter, think of your friends and neighbors who should be helping too, and order more letters from us.

We are waiting for your order, and for your dollars. Send them in the enclosed Sobell Committee return envelope. Each contribution of $15 that you make pays for one thousand letters. Please pay for as many as you can, please use as many as you can.

I thank you with all my heart, for Morton, his wife Helen, the children, our Committee, and myself.

With deepest appreciation,

Rose Sobell

Rose Sobell

P.S. We know that there have already been replies to these letters. Please let us know the response to yours.

Mrs. Rose Sobell
Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

No Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE
First Class Permit No. 9552, New York, N. Y.

Sobell Committee
Room D
940 Broadway
New York 10, N. Y.

Postage Will be Paid by Addressee

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to add my voice to those of the many clergymen and other eminent Americans recommending a commutation of sentence for Morton Sobell, who is enduring his 10th year of imprisonment.

I hope that you will grant freedom this holiday season to Mr. Sobell -- many of our distinguished citizens believe he was convicted on flimsy testimony and given an unduly harsh sentence.

Season's greetings and best wishes of good health for you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

You are cordially invited

by

Reverend John Haynes Holmes
Professor Victor Paschkis
Reverend A. J. Muste
Rabbi Harry Halpern
Jerome Nathanson
Maxwell Geismar
Murray Kempton
Dr. Leo Mayer
Max Eastman
Conrad Lynn
Howard Radest
John F. Finerty
Norman Thomas
Dwight Macdonald
Dr. Horace Kallen
Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
Reverend Thomas Kilgore
Reverend Donald Harrington

to attend a public discussion of a very urgent issue

THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

Tuesday ~ May 24th, 1960 ~ 8:15 P.M.

The Community Church

40 East 35th Street ~ New York

There will be no admission charge

Panel of Speakers

U. S. Congressman
Randall S. Harmon
10th District, Indiana

Norman Thomas

Reverend Thomas Kilgore

Dwight Macdonald

Conrad Lynn

Mrs. Morton Sobell

Chairman

William Kunstler

Professor of law, New York Law School
Author of radio program "Justice", and
Moderator of "Pro & Con," WMCA Radio

See reverse side for a statement on the Sobell case made by an eminent group of theologians and law professors based on their independent study.

670

The following statement on the Morton Sobell case was made by the undersigned after their independent study:

A STATEMENT ON THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

The undersigned are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 1, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None is associated with any organization, committee, or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1) Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

2) The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as light cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

3) Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

4) Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

5) As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a discipline and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell Sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR, Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology, Union Theological Seminary, New York City
JOHN C. BENNETT, Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology, Union Theological Seminary
PAUL RAMSEY, Professor of Religion, Princeton University
EDMOND CAHN, Professor of Law, New York University
DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS, Professor of Systematic Theology, Union Theological Seminary
JEROME NATHANSON, Administrative Leader, New York Society for Ethical Culture
GERHARD O. W. MUELLER, Associate Professor of Law, New York University

(titles are for identification only)

You are cordially invited

by

Reverend John Haynes Holmes
Professor Victor Paschkis
Reverend A. J. Muste
Rabbi Harry Halpern
Jerome Nathanson
Maxwell Geismar
Murray Kempton
Dr. Leo Mayer
Max Eastman
Conrad Lynn
Howard Radest
John F. Finerty
Norman Thomas
Dwight Macdonald
Dr. Horace Kallen
Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
Reverend Thomas Kilgore
Reverend Donald Harrington

to attend a public discussion of a very urgent issue

THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

Tuesday ~ May 24th, 1960 ~ 8:15 P.M.

The Community Church

40 East 35th Street ~ New York

There will be no admission charge

Panel of Speakers

U. S. Congressman
Randall S. Harmon
10th District, Indiana

Norman Thomas

Reverend Thomas Kilgore

Dwight Macdonald

Conrad Lynn

Mrs. Morton Sobell

Chairman

William Kunstler

Professor of law, New York Law School
Author of radio program "Justice", and
Moderator of "Pro & Con," WMCA Radio

See reverse side for a statement on the Sobell case made by an eminent group of theologians and law professors based on their independent study.

The following statement on the Morton Sobell case was made by the undersigned after their independent study:

A STATEMENT ON THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

The undersigned are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 1, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None is associated with any organization, committee, or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1) Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

2) The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

3) Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

4) Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

5) As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a discipline and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell Sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR, Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology, Union Theological Seminary, New York City
JOHN C. BENNETT, Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology, Union Theological Seminary
PAUL RAMSEY, Professor of Religion, Princeton University
EDMOND CAHN, Professor of Law, New York University
DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS, Professor of Systematic Theology, Union Theological Seminary
JEROME NATHANSON, Administrative Leader, New York Society for Ethical Culture
GERHARD O. W. MUELLER, Associate Professor of Law, New York University

(titles are for identification only)

1070

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Many of our most eminent citizens and publications believe the trial of Morton Sobell to have been unfair, or the 30-year sentence excessive. In view of this significant concern, it is disturbing that no action has yet been taken in his behalf.

I wish to add my voice to those requesting you to commute his sentence to the time served. Even the possibility that an innocent man may be imprisoned is a terrible thing. Each added day of prison that Morton Sobell is made to endure -- and he is already in his 10th year -- compounds this tragic situation for the Sobell family and for our country.

Very sincerely yours,

The Washington Post

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1959 PAGE A10

b7D

Letters to the Editor

When Society Kills

In your edition of Dec. 28, you reported on Dr. Kevorkian's proposal for "judicial euthanasia." It is the fundamental immorality of capital punishment itself which enables such plans to be discussed, just as it was the policy of extermination directed against the Jews which made it possible for the Nazi doctors to perform their experiments.

Among mice the abnormal young are eaten by the parents. Is society then not only to eat its "abnormal" offspring, but to seek to profit by such means? Can we not, with all the millions of dollars being spent for instruments of destruction find a better way to advance medical science?

Obviously in times of great tension such as the period of the Salem witchcraft trials, the Sacco-Vanzetti trial, and the Korean war with the Rosenberg Sobell trial, this proposal can serve as a horrible weapon in the hands of unscrupulous men. Certainly in such circumstances the theory of voluntary choice could become an empty ritual too easily evaded to serve as a guarantee to any individual who had already been rejected by society.

It is true that I have a particular sensitivity to this problem and did mention in the discussion period following Dr. Kevorkian's report at the AAAS meeting the undeserved punishment inflicted on friends and relatives of executed persons. But the more important point which I made was with respect to my husband, Morton Sobell, who was tried with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and who, with them maintained his innocence. My husband was prejudiced, as is every codefendant in a case where death is decreed, in the sentence imposed on him, and in the continuing difficulty of obtaining a new trial which would raise a question concerning two people who are already dead.

If out of the suffering of nine years imprisonment of my husband, and from the questionings and doubts on his behalf and on behalf of the Rosenbergs could come a reexamination of the use of capital punishment, some good would have been derived. Certainly history will prove their innocence. What then?

MRS. MORTON SOBELL.
New York.

Here are but a few examples of what America's conscience says about the Sobell case

LABOR

The Central Labor Union Council of Minneapolis, representing 100,000 workers, calls for a new trial... The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, Paperhangers, Local 867, Cleveland, asks President Eisenhower "to take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."... Labor attorneys Harold Cranefield of Detroit and Gerhard Van Arkel of Washington have asked Sobell's release.

POLITICAL STATESMEN

The California Democratic Council, in asking a review by the President: "There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day."... U. S. Congressman Randall S. Harmon, Indiana: "The possibility that an innocent man is imprisoned calls for careful study and positive action."

CIVIL LIBERTARIANS

Norman Thomas: "Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"... Roger Baldwin, Chairman, International League for the Rights of Man: "I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."

CLERGY

1000 clergymen of different faiths have appealed for Morton Sobell's freedom... The Central Conference of American Rabbis has asked President Eisenhower to review the case... Reverend Peter McCormack, Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there, says: "The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

SCIENTISTS EDUCATORS

Nobel Prize scientist Dr. Harold C. Urey: "I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."... Historian Carleton Beals calls Sobell's conviction a "brazen denial of elementary rights" and "so absurd it is incredible."... Law professors from Yale, the University of Chicago, New York University and other leading institutions have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom.

For more information or to send a financial contribution to help Morton Sobell's appeal, please contact
The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, New York 10, New York
AL 4-9[illegible]

Dear Mr. President:

On November 19th, 20th and 21st there will be a convening in *Washington of Americans representing* the thousands who are asking freedom for Morton Sobell during the traditional amnesty period at Christmas. Because so many eminent individuals and organizations have raised questions about his continued imprisonment, I would like to join in asking a commutation of his sentence.

Mr. Sobell has steadfastly maintained he is completely innocent. His 30-year sentence contrasts sharply with lesser sentences given in espionage cases even to persons who pleaded guilty, such as Klaus Fuchs, Alan Nunn May and Francis Powers. Mr. Sobell has already served 10 years. Certainly he and his family have suffered enough, and it is time to be merciful and grant him release.

(signature)

(This letter need not be sealed)

---

fold along dotted line

From:

(name)

(address)

(city and state)

place 4¢ stamp here

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ACT NOW TO FREE MORTON SOBELL FROM PRISON

For 10 years Morton Sobell, an American scientist, has been in prison. Public opinion urgently demands his release. Expert's question whether he had a fair trial. Thousands believe him innocent of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge on which he was condemned to 30 years. Others say the 30-year sentence is outrageous.

See inside for more information

Help right this wrong by signing the appeal below to President Eisenhower. By folding this page, it conveniently becomes ready for stamping and mailing to Washington.

An Urgent Public Issue:

FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

Morton Sobell has been in prison for nearly ten years. The charge: conspiracy to commit espionage. The sentence: 30 years. Mr. Sobell has from the beginning maintained his innocence. Many who have studied the trial record of his case are convinced of a miscarriage of justice.

Reverend John Haynes Holmes
Professor Victor Paschkis
Reverend A. J. Muste
Rabbi Harry Halpern
Jerome Nathanson
Maxwell Geismar
Murray Kempton
Dr. Leo Mayer
Max Eastman
Conrad Lynn
Howard Radest
John F. Finerty
Norman Thomas
Dr. Horace Kallen
Dwight Macdonald
Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
Reverend Thomas Kilgore
Reverend Donald Harrington

Invite you to

read this summary of a meeting, attended by 600 persons, which we, the above, sponsored to discuss an urgent public issue: The CASE OF MORTON SOBELL. The meeting was held at the Community Church of New York on May 24th.

Chairman: WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER, attorney, associate professor at New York Law School, author of radio program "Justice" and moderator of "Pro and Con" program, WMCA radio:

Before giving you a little background on the Sobell case, I want to make it quite clear that I am speaking for myself and not for any of the institutions with which I am associated. The Rosenberg and Sobell cases were, unfortunately, intertwined. When the joint case went to the three-judge Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Judge Jerome Frank dissented. He voted to give Sobell a new trial on the ground that Hon. Irving R. Kaufman, the trial judge, had permitted the case to go to the jury with only one conspiracy pointed out when in reality there might be two conspiracies, the one in which Sobell might have been involved having, as Judge Kaufman himself admitted, no "connection with the atom bomb project."

While I believe the Rosenbergs were guilty, it is questionable whether there was sufficient evidence against Sobell to have gone to the jury. My study of the case indicates the possibility that he may be innocent, but in any event, I feel that his sentence was unjustifiably severe and that the ten years he has spent in Alcatraz and Atlanta are ample punishment.

The chief witness against Sobell was a former friend named Max Elitcher. In his testimony, which was totally uncorroborated, he said that Sobell had inducted him into the Communist Party. Elitcher mentioned a number of conversations in which he said Sobell had asked him to (1) obtain espionage recruits, (2) obtain classified information about fire control systems, and (3) remain with the Navy Department. He also stated that Julius Rosenberg had mentioned Sobell at one time as being part of an espionage group.

There was one other portion of Elitcher's testimony that suggested that Sobell was involved in some sort of nebulous contact with some very unspecific espionage. Elitcher said that he drove to New York from Washington in the summer of 1948 and when he arrived at Sobell's home in Flushing, informed him that he thought he had been followed by several cars on the trip north. He testified that Sobell became very agitated and asked him to drive with him in his car to the neighborhood in Manhattan where Julius Rosenberg lived. While Elitcher remained sitting in the car, Sobell disappeared for half an hour with what Elitcher thought looked like a can of 35 mm film.

On cross-examination, Elitcher admitted he was extremely frightened by the fact that he had lied under oath on an application for government employment and that he was worried about a perjury prosecution. But he admitted that he had hopes "that the best will happen to me."

The only other evidence against Sobell consisted of proof that he left for Mexico in June of 1950 before the arrest of Julius Rosenberg. He informed William Danziger, a former City College classmate, that he was taking a vacation with his family. While in Mexico, he used various aliases and made trips to the Mexican seaports of Vera Cruz and Tampico.

What may have hurt Sobell the most so far as the jury was concerned, was his failure to testify at the trial. This was, of course, a decision made by his attorneys. If I had been conducting his defense I don't know what I would have done on this score. But in the light of hindsight, I think this worked against him, particularly as it left unanswered Elitcher's accusations, the reasons for the Mexican trip and the use of aliases. It was a calculated risk at best, the more so when one recalls that the North Korean aggression, which started in June of 1950, had put some heat into the cold war. In the light of this country's understandable reaction, Morton Sobell's silence was a grave mistake and undoubtedly contributed to his conviction.

DWIGHT MACDONALD, author, critic, writer for the NEW YORKER and ESQUIRE magazines:

I'm here because I believe Morton Sobell has been unjustly treated. The nine years he has served are more than enough punishment for the crime of which he was convicted. I've read the entire court record of the Rosenberg-Sobell case and I must say I think they received a fair trial. I'm also sorry to say that I think Sobell was guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

Nevertheless, it was never clear why in the world Sobell should have been tried along with the Rosenbergs. When he sentenced Sobell, Judge Kaufman said: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atomic bomb project," which is quite explicit. And then he went on to sentence him to 30 years.

Now this is a fantastic sentence, even if you think as I do that Sobell was guilty. (I may be wrong, I hope I am wrong.) But anyway, the only thing he was shown to have done was extremely vague and nebulous. I don't remember a single piece of concrete data which Elitcher was able to bring up that was actually passed on.

I don't understand why the Supreme Court, which in general has been quite good in the last ten years, didn't do something about this whole case. I opposed the death sentence against the Rosenbergs on moral grounds, and on the practical ground that Judge Kaufman and the people who allowed the thing to go through dealt a very great blow to the United States throughout the world. This country appears especially bad when you think of the sentences that England imposed on Alan Nunn May, and especially Klaus Fuchs. May got 10 years. Fuchs got 14 and was released a year or so ago after serving nine years.

The Rosenbergs are dead. We can't do anything about this miscarriage of justice. But justice can still be done to Morton Sobell, and also to Harry Gold, who unlike Sobell, cooperated fully with the American authorities and yet was given 30 years.

NORMAN THOMAS:

My own position on the Sobell case is admirably summarized in this very succinct statement which has been widely given out (study by group of theologians and law professors including Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and Professor Edmond Cahn of the New York University law school, calling the case against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof" and asking commutation of sentence). **I am quite convinced that Mr. Sobell should have had another trial, in view of the facts cited here and also in view of the dubious administration of due process in the manner in which he was hauled out of Mexico.** I was disappointed that the Supreme Court did not grant that trial. Of myself, I am not convinced by what I have read, either of his complete innocence or of his guilt.

This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction? Men have committed horrible crimes of which there has not been the slightest doubt and got the sentence of 10 years, 15 years, and have been admitted to parole. But not Sobell.

Under our law we have denied the existence of a special category of political prisoners. They're all criminals — the gangster, the murderer, the rapist — and so is the Communist and we treat them all alike. But we don't. The embezzler, yes the murderer, has a better chance of getting parole under certain circumstances.

This is a shame to the country. It's a weakness that we, so strong — that we who dare to say we lead the free world, that somehow, somewhere inside us there is such a spirit of fear, of dread, of hate, or vengeance that we mete out 30 years to Sobell for what he did, without mercy. And God knows we mete out perhaps death to Henry Winston, a Smith Act prisoner whose sight is almost gone through a brain tumor. But the sentence still stands, no mercy, no parole.

Men who are too sophisticated to say it, men who perhaps won't admit it to themselves, those men carry on their misconceptions of justice and mercy because they think you and I like it.

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK of San Francisco, former Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there:

"Best wishes for a successful meeting. Truth and justice will prevail. Morton Sobell will be vindicated. Hundreds of clergy who signed the clergy appeal stand fast in their belief that Sobell is innocent. We join you in urging his release."

MRS. MORTON SOBELL:

If those who believe that Morton is guilty are willing to stand up here on this platform tonight and ask for his release, how much more is it my responsibility, who know his innocence to ask that you be concerned with this case!

We are going back into the courts to ask for a new trial, which would surely vindicate my husband. During the last year we have seen many requests for a commutation and for a new trial of Morton's case, including appeals by professors of law at New York, Chicago, Yale, Cornell and Northwestern Universities. Almost one thousand clergymen have asked for Morton's freedom. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has asked for a re-examination of this case, as has the California Democratic Council in a meeting of 3,000 delegates. There have been, among others, editorials in the CHRISTIAN CENTURY, the PORTLAND OREGONIAN, the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL. On the world scene, Lord Bertrand Russell, Martin Buber, a group of 15 prominent Israelis, Pablo Casals, Jean-Paul Sartre, and many others have asked for Morton's freedom.

This decade has not been lacking in sorrow and suffering for us as a family. We wanted, Morton and I, to have more children together. We wanted to live normal lives. Despite prison, we have tried to do this in every way we could. We love each other dearly. For the sake of children, and because Morton is a fine person and a competent scientist, we need him at home. Please help.

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman, International League for the Rights of Man:

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges. The injustice done under the pressures of the time should be righted, so far as that is possible, by a speedy commutation to the time served, already too long."

CAREY McWILLIAMS, editor of the Nation magazine:

"I have always thought that Sobell was improperly convicted and that the evidence against him was wholly insufficient. This is no recent conviction. I have thought this way for a long time, and had occasion to say so at a Sobell dinner meeting in Chicago quite some years ago."

CONRAD LYNN, attorney specializing in the civil liberties field:

I can't claim to come here tonight with a dispassionate view of the evidence against Sobell. By nature, I am a partisan. I want to congratulate not only the speakers, but this audience. It's a sign that the McCarthy period is coming to an end.

We once again see stirring the spirit that animated the rebel, Patrick Henry, to say, "Give me liberty or give me death." We're getting more of that spirit from those Southern Negro students. There is an upsurge, not just of Negroes. Because their conditions are the most severe, it is only natural that they should make the first break. This resurgence is the guarantee we have that political prisoners such as Morton Sobell will be free.

At the time that Morton Sobell was convicted, we had a classic instance of the pressure and influence of the mob spirit, and I say mob spirit because any mass pressure for conviction, regardless of evidence, is a mob spirit.

Regardless of the minutiae of evidence and regardless of the debates over whether this bit should have turned the scales or that bit, when we know that this savage sentence was meted out in the atmosphere of the time in which it was rendered, then we have an obligation at another period such as this to demand a review.

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM MEYER, Democrat, Vermont:

"I am not trained in the law but I have attempted to study the background. This effort convinced me that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair and adequate trial. I have corresponded with the President and have urged him to consent to a new trial. Although, I have been unsuccessful, I am even more convinced that a new trial is essential to the maintenance of American standards of justice. I make no reference to innocence or guilt; I make no pleas for clemency or mercy. In asking or demanding that impartial justice be rendered to one man regardless of conditions, I am aware of the fact that I speak out for the future of all men."

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN RANDALL S. HARMON, Democrat, 10th District, Indiana:

I consider it my duty to participate in this meeting because wherever there are questions of justice involved, every American should examine the facts. It is good that men of conscience and integrity who are highly respected throughout the country are uniting to sponsor this public discussion in the case of Morton Sobell. I have looked into Sobell's case and I am convinced that the 30-year sentence is completely out of line.

Mr. Sobell, now in his 10th year of prison, has always maintained his innocence. The possibility that an innocent man is imprisoned calls for careful study and positive action. It would, I believe, be in the public interest that Sobell be freed, and I intend to do everything in my power to see that this be done as quickly as possible.

I don't know anything about the other people that were involved in this same case. I've never thought that capital punishment was the answer. Perhaps one reason why Morton Sobell has been imprisoned this long and why they won't give him another day in court is because it might be discovered that these other people were also innocent.

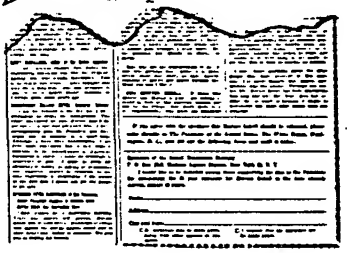
HOWARD RADEST, minister and leader of the Bergen, New Jersey, Ethical Society:

I think the innocence or guilt of a human being is not to be bandied in words before a large audience. What I am concerned about is the strange picture of human beings in the middle of the 20th century, with so many big things going on, who are willing to devote time and energy and effort to consider the fate of one single living human being. If we should ever lose this ability to be concerned about one, then whatever else we gain, we have indeed lost. The important thing that you can do as you go home is to let others know about the case and about what is being done. This would be just as important as those who can give money. Do both.

The New York Times.

An Urgent Public Issue:

FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL



This brochure is reprinted as a public service from the ad which appeared in the New York Times of June 20, 1960.

If you agree with the speakers that Morton Sobell should be released, please write directly to The President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D.C., and fill out the following form and mail it today.

Sponsors of the Sobell Discussion Meeting
P. O. Box No. 343, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N.Y.

I would like to be included among those supporting the plea to the President for commuting the 30 year sentence for Morton Sobell to the time already served, almost 10 years.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____

☐ My signature may be made public along with other signers of this appeal.

☐ I request that my signature not be made public.

b7D

"J'Accuse...!" (I ACCUSE...!)

A statement by Irwin Edelman, the "intruder" who in 1953 faced the resistance and sabotage of the Rosenberg defense committee in his almost successful effort to save Julius & Ethel Rosenberg from death.

I SUBMIT a most serious charge against the leaders of the Sobell defense committee. I accuse them of deliberately holding back from the courts of law and the court of public opinion certain vital facts which seven years ago could have saved the Rosenbergs and today can force the liberation of Morton Sobell. I am well aware that this charge will shock some good people but it is high time that good people *are* shocked.

In November 1952 I published a pamphlet in which I displayed what—at best—was a shocking blunder committed in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial by the Rosenberg defense attorney, Emanuel H. Bloch. The pamphlet attracted the attention of a Nashville attorney, Fyke Farmer, who went in for research and uncovered additional important defense errors of which I as a layman had no conception. When he brought them to the attention of Bloch and the Committee heads, they displayed not the slightest inclination to make use of them.

The upshot was that, after making every reasonable effort to get Bloch and/or the Committee to act, Mr. Farmer, a few days before the scheduled execution, filed an appeal in my name as "next friend" of the Rosenbergs. Trial Judge Kaufman angrily denied it, calling us "intruders and interlopers." But Supreme Court Justice Douglas looked into it and ordered that world-stirring stay which almost saved their lives. The ostensible friends of the Rosenbergs and the Government were at the time extricated from a most serious predicament by the Attorney General's unprecedented call for a special session of the full Supreme Court. The Court immediately rushed back from its vacation, its majority cancelled the Douglas order, and the Rosenbergs were quickly killed.

In the opinion of Mr. Farmer (and other competent attorneys I have spoken to) the discovered errors should long have been included in the appeals to free Sobell. My efforts in 1954 to interest Helen Sobell in this, and in 1956-57 to interest the Committee and its lawyers, were fruitless. The inescapable conclusion I have been led to is that those in charge of the Committee are content with the house parties, the $50 and $100 a plate Dinners, and other of their fund-raising activities, and that they would be very unhappy to have Morton Sobell freed, particularly on the kind of legal grounds that would expose how the Rosenbergs *could* have been saved.

The trial and execution of the Rosenbergs has implanted dangerous anti-Semitic and other confusion in tens of millions of minds, confusion that could erupt with volcanic fury if a demagogue decided to play on it in a time of national or social tension. It is primarily for the purpose of clearing the confusion that I have been working for close to seven years now on a book-length report of *The Suppressed Facts in the Rosenberg-Sobell Case*—that is its tentative title. The shocking facts I present there constitute an indictment of both the avowed friends and the avowed foes of the Rosenbergs. In the real crime against the murdered, there is a complex of motivations, all of them sordid and ugly.

The overall conclusion from the facts is that the Rosenbergs were caught as in a vise between rot on the Right and rot on the Left, and crushed. Within the limits of this brochure I can in this connection only point to a highly suggestive fact—the long silence of the subsequently most vocal defenders—the incredible fact that the Daily Worker, the Jewish Morning Freiheit, the west coast People's World, the weekly National Guardian, and other reputedly crusading left-wing publications, never reported the arrest of the Rosenbergs and Sobell, never mentioned the pre-trial developments, and published not a word about the case during the entire 23-day period that the trial lasted.

Suggestive also in this connection is that the National Guardian refused a paid ad for the pamphlet in which I exposed the mismanagement of the defense and to this day has maintained a tight silence on the issues raised.

Seven years is a long time. Why is my report not published?

The answer, I am sorry to say, is that I am anything but a success in the matter of rounding up the help I need for the effective and speedy completion of the project. I have been and am working with the flimsiest resources, with no typing or other secretarial or editorial assistance whatsoever. That is why the pace of my progress has been painfully slow. What in all this time has kept me going, what stopped me from tearing up the manuscript in disgust was the fact that men of acknowledged competence and integrity, men like Lewis Mumford and the late Lion Feuchtwanger and Albert Einstein had taken the trouble to read what I had written and to tell me that they were much impressed.

In the summer of 1954 Albert Einstein, after reading an early draft, said in his letter of comment that he saw eye-to-eye with me on "the lamentable role the legal defense has played, a behavior bordering on treachery." His letter of comment on a later draft opened with:

"I have read carefully everything you have sent me. Your account of the proceedings in the Rosenberg case I find excellent, also your analysis of the political background. I believe there are few people who could fail to learn something essential. You have convinced me that—from the viewpoint of restoring sanity to our political climate—one must not let this case rest."

More recently, in March 1958, the Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, Mr. Stephen H. Fritchman, in his letter of comment wrote, "I enjoyed far more than these words will convey the [reading of the] manuscript. . . . You have done a tremendous service to the cause of human justice in preparing this material. I am appalled at the implications. . . ."

The 9-year dialogue between the Rosenberg-Sobell "friends" and their foes has produced hardly a ripple in the climate of opinion on the case. There is a third side to the Rosenberg-Sobell case which urgently needs telling. It has been and is my firm intention to do so. But to do it, effectively and to do it in time, I need help—financial, secretarial, editorial. The job I am trying to do should be everybody's business.

IRWIN EDELMAN
G.P.O. Box 463 New York 1, N. Y.

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT NCSJC

FILE NO. 100-387835

VOLUME NO. BULKY

SERIALS 1107

THRU

1149

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Obtained as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 11/2/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Vault	Evidence & Information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same See below

1107 [redacted] Memo press release re: [redacted] appeal meeting in Washington DC. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] mhc

1108 [redacted] Envelope & Clergy Appeal Re Wm D. C. Rally [redacted]

1109 [redacted] Return envelope addressed to Mrs. Sobell.

NOTE: EXHIBITS REC'D [redacted] by SA [redacted]
SEE ER. [redacted]

1110 [redacted] Memo copy letter dated [redacted] from Mrs. Morton Sobell on CSJMS letterhead.

1111 [redacted] Press release re Freedom weekend Wash., D.C. [redacted] sponsored by CSJMS.

1112 [redacted] Mimeo form forreservation fo[redacted] National appeal for Freedom for Morton Sobell issue of CSJMS.

NOTE: EXHIBITS [redacted] rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]

b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B185
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Proper[illegible]uired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 11/21/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
11/14/60	[redacted] b7d

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
SHELF	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION-RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

SA [redacted] b7c

1113. [redacted] Phonograph record "PRison Ballad" re Morton Sobell.
gb

b7c

Rec'd. [redacted] Retain per [redacted] #41 gd

Destroyed 2/28/75 per [redacted]

b7c

Field File # 100-107111-1B186
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 11/23/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBER CASE.
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
SEE BELOW	SEE INDIVIDUAL 1B'S
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
VAULT	EVIDENCE & INFORMATION-RETAIN

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same SEE BELOW

(1) 1114. [redacted] Brochure relating to " Clergy Rally" at D.C. 10/19/60 by SA [redacted] Rec'd [redacted]
[redacted] b7c

1115. [redacted] Release [redacted] of JAMES T. FARRELL statement.
1116. Release [redacted] of RABBI JACOB J. WEINSTEIN.
1117. A prayer for Freedom, [redacted]
1118. Pamphlet "Freedom for Morton Sobell".
1119. "Thirty Years", a ballad for MORTON SOBELL.
1120. Sponsors of the National Appeal for Freedom of Morton Sobell, [redacted]
1121. Postcard addressed to Hon. JOHN F. KENNEDY.
1122. Printed card seeking clemency from President Eisenhower and attached Seasons Greetings to MORTON SOBELL.
1123. Folder of CSJMS seeking financial contribution including form letter to President Eisenhower.
1124. Booklet, "When Conscience Speaks".
1125. Excerpts from Prof. THO. I. EMERSON talk scheduled [redacted]
1126. [redacted] issue of The Nation containing article, "Perspective on the Sobell Case".
112[redacted] b7d

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
NOV 23 1960
FBI — NEW YORK

Field File # 100-107111-1B187
#41

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 12/8/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS - C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Vault	Evidence & information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- See below

1128. [redacted] 6 rolls of negs. and 2 copies of each photograph of individuals attending Sobell bus ride to Wash. D. C. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]

1129. [redacted] "The Nation" volume 191, #16 dated 11/12/60, page 362 "Perspectives in the Sobell Case. Rec'd 11/16/60 by SA [redacted]

1130. [redacted] Press Release [redacted] re "~~Cergy~~ Appeal" Wash. D. C. Rec'd [redacted] by ASAC E. HUGO WINTEROWD.

1131. [redacted] 2 photostats of Sobell check dated [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1132. [redacted] One autostat copy of "Convening of Americans" pamphlet. Rec'd [redacted] wfw

1133. [redacted] One autostat copy of "Suggested Editorials to Church Publications". Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted]

1134. [redacted] Press release to "Church Publications". Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] wfw [redacted]

b7 c,d

Field File #100-107111-1B188
#41

SEARCHED SERIALIZED FILED
FBI — NEW YORK

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 12/30/60

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
Vault	Evidence & information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See below

1135. [redacted] Mimeo. press relaase re Pennsylvania educators & Clergyman in appeals for MORTON SOBELL.

1136. [redacted] Mimeo. "Text of the Appeal for MORTON SOBELL" signed by 1500 Clergymen and a listing of those from Pennsylvania who have participated".

1137. [redacted] Mimeo. letter from CSJMS appealing for funds.

1138. [redacted] Folder (printed) re speaking engagement by HELEN SOBELL in Phila., Pa. on [redacted]

1139. [redacted] Folder re "National Appeal for Freedom", Wash., D. C.
NOTE: [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1140. [redacted] Letter announcing NYS CSJMS meeting 1/4/61. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] eab

1141 [redacted] Printed invitation to Testimonial for BEN & JENNIE RATNER sponsored by NYCSJMS. Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] eab

1142. [redacted]

1143. [redacted] Mimeo letter from HELEN SOBELL to "Atlanta Clergyman" on behalf of MORTON SOBELL, dtd. [redacted] Rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] eab

b7c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B189
1141

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NEW YORK	

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 12-5-58)

Date 1/26/61

☐ *Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.*

Bufile	Field Division
100-387835	NEW YORK

Title and Character of Case

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE
IS-C

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
See below	See individual 1B's

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Vault	Evidence & information - Retain

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same - See below

1144. [redacted]

1145. [redacted]

1146. [redacted] Mimeographed one page item re articles favoring MORTON SOBELL plus transcript of articles which appeared in "View - Church Messenger".

1147. [redacted]

NOTE: [redacted] by SA [redacted] cag

1148 [redacted] Letter dated [redacted] on CSJMS stationary. wfw
1149 Enclosure to above letter "A National Appeal for Freedom." wfw

NOTE: EXHIBITS [redacted] rec'd [redacted] by SA [redacted] See ser 4327.

67 c,d

Field File # 100-107111-1B190
#41

SEARCHED [illegible]

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1107	MEMO	✓		
1108	CLERGY APPEAL	✓		
1109	ENVELOPE	✓		
1110	LETTER	✓		
1111	PRESS RELEASE	✓		
1112	LETTER	✓		
1113	DESTROYED	—	—	DESTROYED
1114	BROCHURE	✓		
1115	RELEASE	✓		
1116	RELEASE	✓		
1117	RELEASE	✓		
1118	PAMPHLET	✓		
1119	BALLAD	✓		
1120	SPONSORS	✓		
1121	POSTCARD	✓		
1122	CARD	✓		
1123	FOLDER	✓		
1124	BOOKLET	✓		
1125	EXCERPTS - SPEECH	✓		
1126	ISSUE OF THE NATION			✓ NUM. COPIES
1127	EXEMPTED		✓ b7D	EXEMPTED
1128	PHOTOGRAPHS	✓		NOTE: 6 ROLLS OF NEGS. WERE NOT COPIED.

JULIUS ROSENBERG, et al.

NEW YORK BULKY EXHIBIT FILES

Exhibit Number	Description	Released	Denied	Withheld
1129	NATION			✓ NUM. COPIES
1130	PRESS RELEASE	✓		
1131	CHECKS	✓		
1132	PAMPHLET	✓		
1133	EDITORIAL	✓		
1134	PRESS RELEASE	✓		
1135	PRESS RELEASE	✓		
1136	PRESS RELEASE	✓		
1137	LETTER	✓		
1138	FOLDER	✓		
1139	FOLDER	✓		
1140	LETTER	✓		
1141	INVITATION	✓		
1142	EXEMPTED		✓ b7D	—
1143	LETTER	✓		
1144	EXEMPTED		✓ b7D	—
1145	EXEMPTED		✓ b7D	—
1146	LETTER	✓		
1147	EXEMPTED		✓ b7D	—
1148	LETTER	✓		
1149	PAMPHLET	✓		

Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

SPECIAL TO ANGLO-JEWISH PRESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABBIS AMONG NOTED AMERICANS SPONSORING
NATIONAL GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
TO URGE FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

****

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Chicago to address banq
Sponsors include Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Roger Baldwi
Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Rev.Martin Luther King, Jr.
Norman Thomas and Rev. Peter McCormack

****

Appeal by One Thousand Rabbis and Ministers
to be Presented to White House

****

Rabbis from throughout the country are among th noted Americans sponsoring a national gathering to b held in Washington, D.C., from Nov.19-21 to climax widespread appeals for the President to free Morton Sobell from prison.

Representative speakers from Washington and other cities will address a banquet at the Hotel Shoreham in Washington on Saturday, Nov. 19, to urge a commutation of sentence for Sobell, now in the 11th year of a 30-year sentence on the charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage." Tried together

with the Rosenbergs in 1951, Sobell has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

Participants in the Washington events have expressed diverse views on the case, but are united in agreement that the sentence was far too severe and should now be reduced to time served. They are requesting a Presidential commutation this year. An appeal to the President by more than 1,000 rabbis and ministers from throughout the United States is scheduled to be presented.

The Sobell Freedom Banquet will be addressed by Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of the KAM Temple in Chicago, who is national chairman of the Committee for Labor Israel; the Rev. John Paul Jones of Ashfield, Mass.; noted Detroit attorney Harold Cranefield, General Counsel to the International Union, United Auto Workers, and Burns Chalmers of the American Friends Service Committee. Mrs. Morton Sobell will also speak. The banquet will be chaired by attorney Gerhard Van Arkel of Washington, D.C. The speakers will be appearing as individuals and not as representatives of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

Among the rabbis listed as sponsors, together with such eminent Americans as Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Roger Baldwin, Norman Thomas, and Rev. Martin Luther King, are the following:

~~Rabbi Morris Adler of Detroit; Rabbi Jerome S. Bass, Natick, Mas~~ Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Washington, D.C.; Rabbi Morris Fishman, Margate, N.J.; Rabbi Robert E. Goldburg, Hamden, Conn.; and Rabbi Avery J. Grossfield, Port Arthur, Texas. Many more rabbis from throughout the country are included among the signers of the appeal for Sobell's release which will be presented to President Eisenhower.

Suggested Editorial

67D

Dear Editor:

If you agree that the following is a fair recommendation in the Morton Sobell case, will you publish this editorial or a similar one in your publication?

Authorities cited in the editorial are quoted more fully in the brochure announcing the national appeal in Washington.

****

One of the qualities in which our democracy justifiably takes pride is our concern for the individual. It is not surprising that when a cry is raised of a possible injustice to a fellow American, the national conscience is affected.

A number of distinguished individuals and organizations are raising questions concerning the trial and 30-year sentence of Morton Sobell on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage. Sobell, you will recall, was in the same trial with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, although he was not accused of atomic espionage. He has throughout his imprisonment, now in his 11th year, maintained his innocence, and the Rev. Peter McCormack, who was the Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Sobell was held there, believes Sobell.

We are impressed by the fact that those appealing in Sobell's behalf include individuals and groups who in no way could be labeled Communist. For example, a study of the record was made by a group including one of the most distinguished theologians in America, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and leading law professor Edmund Cahn of New York University. They found the evidence against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof."

Roger Baldwin, who has guarded our civil liberties for many decades, calls the 30-year sentence far too severe. One thousand ministers and rabbis have appealed to President Eisenhower, and the 1960 national convention of the Conference of American Rabbis adopted a resolution asking a review of the facts. It is significant too that an educator with the meticulous standards of Professor Sidney Hook, who assumes Sobell guilty of the charge, recommends his release and points out that the sole witness against Sobell merely testified to unsuccessful attempts to procure information.

Whatever the differing points of view about various aspects of this affair, there is a widespread unity of opinion that the 10 years Sobell has endured in prison, including nearly six in Alcatraz, is more than enough punishment.

It is difficult to see how Sobell's further prolonged imprisonment at public expense can at this point serve the national security. On November 19, 20 and 21 a national appeal is taking place in Washington, D.C., to urge a Presidential commutation of sentence for Morton Sobell during the traditional Christmas amnesty period. We believe this request should be given the utmost consideration.

####

67D [redacted]

Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

SPECIAL TO CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLERGYMEN AMONG NOTED AMERICANS SPONSORING NATIONAL GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, D. C. TO URGE FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

****

SPONSORS INCLUDE DR. REINHOLD NIEBUHR, DR. JOHN C. BENNETT, REV. PETER McCORMACK, REV. G. SHUBERT FRYE, ROGER BALDWIN, NORMAN THOMAS, REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING

****

Appeal by 1,000 Ministers and Rabbis to be Presented

****

Clergymen from throughout the country are among the noted Americans sponsoring a national gathering to be held in Washington, D.C., from Nov.19-21 to climax widespread appeals for the President to free Morton Sobell from prison.

Representative speakers from Washington and oth cities will address a banquet at the Hotel Shoreham in Washington on Saturday, Nov. 19, to urge a commutation of sentence for Sobell, now in the 11th year of a 30-year sentence on the charge of "conspir to commit espionage." Tried together with the Rosenbergs in 1951, Sobell has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

Participants in the Washington events have expressed diverse views on the case, but are united in agreement that the sentence was far too severe and should now be reduced to the time served. They are requesting a Presidential commutation during the traditional Christmas amnesty season. An appeal to the President by more than 1,000 rabbis and ministers from throughout the United States is scheduled to be presented.

Among those listed as sponsors with such eminent individuals as Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of the Union Theological Seminary, Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Norman Thomas, are the following:

Rev. Gross W. Alexander, Lucerne Valley, Calif; Rev. William E. Besom, Alexandria, Va.; Rev. John E. Evans, Columbus, Ohio; Rev. G. Shubert Frye, Syracuse, N.Y.; Rev. Erwin A. Gaede, Los Angeles, Calif.; Rev. Richard H. Gatchel, Palo Alto, Calif.; Rev. John Haynes Holmes, New York City; Rev. John Paul Jones, Ashfield, Mass.; Rev. Henry C. Koch, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Peter McCormack, Daly City, Calif.; Rev. Dryden C. Phelps, Berkeley, Calif Rev. Francis S. Tucker, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Rev. Samuel A. Wright, San Rafael, Calif.; Dr. Markus Barth of Chicago, and Rev. Dr. Howard Schomer of Chicago.

The Sobell freedom banquet at the Hotel Shoreham will be addressed by Rev. John Paul Jones of Ashfield, Mass. and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Chicago, with an invocation by Rev. Nelson C. Pierce of the Palisades Community Church in Washington. Other speakers will include attorneys Harold Cranefield of Detroit, General Counsel of the International Union, United Auto Workers;

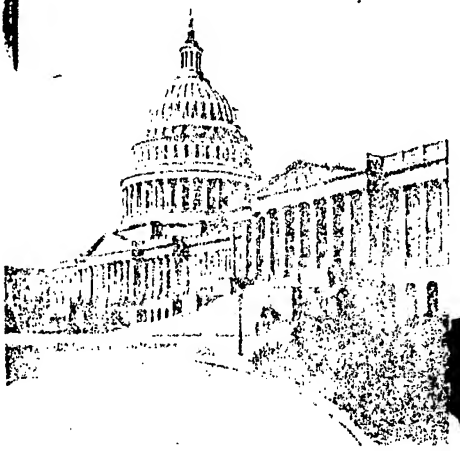
and Gerhard Van Arkel of Washington; Burns Chalmers of the American Friends Service Committee, and Mrs. Morton Sobell. The speakers will be appearing as individuals and not as representatives of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

The appeal in behalf of Morton Sobell will also feature a national exhibit presenting the visual impact of appeals in his behalf, a panel discussion on the facts and issues in the case led by Prof. Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale Law School, and a sundown prayer at the White House led by Rev. Alva Tompkins of the Olivet Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

An independent inquiry into the facts in the Sobell case was made by a group that included Dr. Niebuhr, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Daniel Day Williams of the Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Paul Ramsey of Princeton University; Jerome Nathanson of the New York Ethical Culture Society, and law professors Edmond Cahn and Gerhard O. W. Mueller of New York University. The statement based on their findings held that the case against Sobell was "vague in content and slender in proof." They pointed out that Sobell was not accused of any connection with atomic espionage, and that his conviction and sentence were undoubtedly affected by the emotions surrounding the Rosenberg trial.

Morton Sobell is now in the Atlanta federal prison. He was held in Alcatraz for nearly six years. During his Alcatraz incarceration, the Rev. Peter McCormack, the Protestant prison chaplain at that time, became convinced of Sobell's innocence and has been fighting for his release.

#####



[redacted]

67D

NATIONAL APPEAL for FREEDOM

Washington, D.C.

November 19th, 20th and 21st 1960

ROOM D
940 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

A CONVENING of AMERICANS
united in the request that
MORTON SOBELL
be granted a
COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE
during the traditional Christmas amnesty period.

Program for FREEDOM Weekend

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 19th, 20th and 21st, 1960

EXHIBIT

Specially assembled National Exhibition
"Americans Appeal for Morton Sobell"
The visual impact of democracy in action
Open to public Friday, November 18, through Sunday, November 20 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.

RECEPTION

Gathering of visitors and honored guests
The Hotel Shoreham, Bird Cage Walk
Saturday, November 19, 5:30 P.M.

SOBELL FREEDOM BANQUET

The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom
Saturday, November 19, 7 P.M.
Invocation by Rev. Nelson C. Pierce,
Palisades Community Church, Washington, D. C.
Honored Speakers:
Burns Chalmers - of the American Friends Service Committee, Washington, D. C.
Harold A. Cranefield - Attorney, Detroit, Mich.
Rev. John Paul Jones - Ashfield, Mass.
Mrs. Morton Sobell
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein - National Chairman of the Committee for Labor Israel, Chicago, Ill.
Chairman:
Gerhard Van Arkel - Attorney, Washington, D. C.

PANEL

"Facts and Issues in the Sobell Case"
Prof. Thomas Emerson, Yale Law School
"Further Support for Morton Sobell's Release"
Group Discussion
The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom
Sunday, November 20, 2 P.M.

WHITE HOUSE PRAYER

A sundown prayer for Morton Sobell's freedom
At the White House Sunday, November 20, 2 P.M.
Led by Rev. Alva Tompkins,
Olivet Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.

DELEGATIONS

A day of visiting government representatives on behalf of Morton Sobell's release Monday, November 21

Reservations for the banquet may be made at ten dollars per plate
There is no admission charge for other events

Arrangements by
Mrs. Morton Sobell Mrs. Rose Sobell
Co-Chairmen
Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y. - ALgonquin 4-9983

Conscience Speaks

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment, Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence. Moreover, 30 years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife and children of Morton Sobell share with him. It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

APPEAL TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER
BY 1,000 CLERGYMEN OF DIFFERENT FAITHS

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."
ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman
International League for the Rights of Man

"The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."
REVEREND PETER McCORMACK
Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there

---

"A number of eminent American jurists and clergymen have raised questions as to whether Morton Sobell was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted and as to whether, if guilty, he has not already been sufficiently punished. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, therefore, respectfully urges the President of the United States to review the case, to determine whether there are sufficient grounds either to recommend a new trial or to exercise executive clemency."
RESOLUTION of the 1960 Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Detroit, Mich.

"This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"
NORMAN THOMAS

"Morton Sobell is serving his 10th year in prison. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence throughout his imprisonment. Many eminent Americans and other world figures, including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed substantial doubt as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day. The California Democratic Council has traditionally expressed concern for possible infringements upon justice and civil liberty. The CDC calls upon the President of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell case and take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."
RESOLUTION passed by California Democratic Council meeting attended by 3,000 delegates

---

"I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."
DR. HAROLD C. UREY
Nobel Prize scientist

"We concur in the plea for Morton Sobell's freedom, and call upon our fellow citizens to help. It is urgent that the voice of the public be heard in Washington during the coming months to encourage Sobell's release during the traditional Christmas amnesty season."

from an appeal by
REV. SAMUEL H. CASSEL, Cleveland
HAROLD CRANEFIELD, Detroit
PROF. THOMAS EMERSON, Yale Law School
CLARENCE PICKETT, Philadelphia
PROF. MALCOLM SHARP, University of Chicago Law School
DR. HAROLD C. UREY, La Jolla, California
DR. ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN, Berkeley, California

"I am not trained in the law but I have attempted to study the background. This effort convinced me that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair and adequate trial. I have corresponded with the President and have urged him to consent to a new trial. Although I have been unsuccessful, I am even more convinced that a new trial is essential to the maintenance of American standards of justice. I make no reference to innocence or guilt; I make no pleas for clemency or mercy. In asking or demanding that impartial justice be rendered to one man regardless of conditions, I am aware of the fact that I speak out for the future of all men."

U.S. Congressman WILLIAM MEYER, Vermont

"Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least, we the undersigned of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL, England
DR. MARTIN BUBER, Israel

"We agree with the jury that Sobell -- who protests his innocence -- was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released... In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison."

NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK
IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD
in a letter to the New York Times

Historian Carleton Beals calls Sobell's conviction a "brazen denial of elementary rights" and "so absurd it is incredible."... Law professors from Yale, the University of Chicago, New York University and other leading institutions have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom... The Central Labor Union Council of Minneapolis, representing 100,000 workers, calls for a new trial... The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, Paperhangers, Local 867, Cleveland, asks President Eisenhower "to take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

"Undoubtedly, the atmosphere (McCarthyism) has cleared and one evidence is a re-examination of conscience. Last year the Portland Oregonian suggested in an editorial that some day the public conscience might be sufficiently stirred to determine whether Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence for conspiracy, was convicted of a crime or whether he was a victim of the emotionalism surrounding the Rosenberg case. With the clearing atmosphere, there is a growing realization that freedom is not something we periodically pat ourselves on the back about. It is a creative act to be constantly renewed."

MARQUIS CHILDS, in his nationally syndicated column

STATEMENT BY DISTINGUISHED THEOLOGIANS AND LAW PROFESSORS AFTER INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE FACTS IN THE SOBELL CASE

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 5, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.
2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.
3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.
4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.
5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR
Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology
Union Theological Seminary
New York City

JOHN C. BENNETT
Dean and Professor of Ethics and Theology
Union Theological Seminary

GERHARD O. W. MUELLER
Associate Professor of Law
New York University

EDMOND CAHN
Professor of Law
New York University

DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS
Professor of Systematic Theology
Union Theological Seminary

PAUL RAMSEY
Professor of Religion
Princeton University

JEROME NATHANSON
Administrative Leader
New York Society for Ethical Culture

(Titles are for identification only.)

REV. GROSS W. ALEXANDER, Lucerne Valley, Calif.
DAVID ANDREWS, Boone, N. C.
ROGER N. BALDWIN, New York City
REV. WILLIAM E. BASOM, Alexandria, Va.
RABBI JEROME S. BASS, Natick, Mass.
HELEN M. BEARDSLEY, La Jolla, Calif.
DR. JOHN C. BENNETT, New York City
LEO BERMAN, Chicago, Ill.
RABBI BALFOUR BRICKNER, Washington, D. C.
DR. WILLIAM C. DAVIDON, Chicago, Ill.
MRS. A. POWELL DAVIES, Washington, D. C.
PROF. LLOYD H. DONNELL, Chesterton, Ind.
PROF. THOMAS I. EMERSON, Yale Law School
REV. JOHN E. EVANS, Columbus, Ohio
PROF. ROBERT FINN, Palo Alto, Calif.
RABBI MORRIS FISHMAN, Margate, N. J.
WALDO FRANK, Truro, Mass.
REV. G. SHUBERT FRYE, Syracuse, N. Y.
REV. ERWIN A. GAEDE, Los Angeles, Calif.
REV. RICHARD H. GATCHEL, Palo Alto, Calif.
MAXWELL GEISMAR, Harrison, N. Y.
BENJAMIN GINZBURG, Arlington, Va.
RABBI ROBERT E. GOLDBURG, Hamden, Conn.
RABBI AVERY J. GROSSFIELD, Port Arthur, Texas
REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, New York City
RUSSELL JOHNSON, Petersham, Mass.
REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, Ashfield, Mass.
PROF. HORACE M. KALLEN, New York City
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., Atlanta, Ga.
REV. HENRY C. KOCH, Washington, D. C.
DR. EDWARD D. KORN, Bethesda, Md.
DR. LEO MAYER, New York City
REV. PETER McCORMACK, Daly City, Calif.
DR. GARDNER MURPHY, Topeka, Kansas
DR. REINHOLD NIEBUHR, New York City
PROF. VICTOR PASCHKIS, New York City
REV. DRYDEN L. PHELPS, Berkeley, Calif.
PROF. DALE PONTIUS, Chicago, Ill.
PROF. ANATOL RAPAPORT, Ann Arbor, Mich.
DAVID H. SCULL, Annandale, Va.
PROF. MALCOLM SHARP, Chicago, Ill.
NORMAN THOMAS, New York City
REV. FRANCIS S. TUCKER, Brooklyn, N. Y.
DR. HAROLD C. UREY, La Jolla, Calif.
GERHARD VAN ARKEL, Washington, D. C.
RABBI JACOB J. WEINSTEIN, Chicago, Ill.
PROF. FRANCIS D. WORMUTH, Salt Lake City, Utah
REV. SAMUEL A. WRIGHT, San Rafael, Calif.

as sponsors

invite your participation in

a

NATIONAL APPEAL for FREEDOM

Washington, D. C.

November 19th, 20th and 21st 1960

First Class Permit
Number 9552
New York, N. Y.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

940 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

NATIONAL APPEAL for FREEDOM

November 19th, 20th and 21st 1960

MRS. MORTON SOBELL, 940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

I am coming. Count on me!

Please reserve____places at $10 per plate at the Sobell Freedom Banquet, Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C., Saturday, November 19th, for which I enclose $_____.

ABSENTEE PARTICIPATION

Although I cannot attend in person, I wish to be registered and counted among the Americans throughout the country participating in the banquet and other week-end events. Enclosed is a contribution of $_____ toward expenses for the Washington gathering.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone_____ State_____

☐ Please send me information on transportation, housing and special arrangements.

Total Enclosure $_____

Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

October 20, 1960

Dear Sponsor,

We are sorry not to have received your signature in time to add your name to this initial mailing. However, succeeding materials and press releases will be made more impressive by the inclusion of all of those participating as sponsors.

The enclosed invitation gives the details of the meetings for the National Appeal and I hope you will be able to attend in person as well as lending your name. If you could be present were it not for financial considerations, please advise me, and we may be able to resolve that problem. There are a large number of people who are helping in many different ways to make our gathering a success. Working together we hope to have such an impressive event that we will reach our goal.

Thank you for your help.

Most appreciatively yours,

(Mrs. Morton Sobell)

67D

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY AM, Nov.17,1960

NOTABLES FROM BAY AREA
IN NEW NATIONAL APPEAL
FOR MORTON SOBELL'S FREEDOM

(name) _____, _____,

_____, _____,

_____, _____

Among 600 Americans in Independent Plea to President

Mrs. Morton Sobell announced today that some 600 Americans including many eminent clergymen, educators, writers, and persons active in public affairs, have signed an independent appeal to be submitted to President Eisenhower asking him to release her husband from prison. The appeal, which states, "I would like to be included among those asking the President of the United States to commute the 30-year sentence of Morton Sobell to time served, now 10 years," includes the following from the Bay Area:

(Give paragraph of most important names from your area)

Mr. Sobell, who has maintained his innocence of the conspiracy to commit espionage charge on which he was convicted in the Rosenberg trial, is now in the 11th year of imprisonment. His sentence was 30 years. He is now at the Atlanta federal prison.

This weekend in Washington (Nov.19-21) Americans from throughout the country will gather in his behalf, united in the agreement that the sentence was far too severe and that it should be commuted to time served so that Sobell can be released during the traditional Christmas amnesty period.

Among the individuals from across the nation who have signed the independent appeal are (Affiliations for identification purpose only, since signers acted as individuals):

Clarence Pickett of the American Friends Service Committee; Harold Cranefield, attorney and general counsel for the International Union, United Auto Workers; Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize scientist; Professor Thomas Emerson, Yale Law School; James T.Farrell, author; Harvey Swados, author; Alexander Meiklejohn, civil libertarian; Professor Malcolm Sharp, University of Chicago Law School; Mildred Scott Olmsted of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Nat Hentoff, critic and author; Carl Dreher of the Nation magazine; Professor Howard N. Porter and Professor Victor Paschkis of Columbia University; Rabbi Harry Halpern of New York City; Reverend Samuel H. Cassel of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Gardner Murphy of the Menninger Foundation; Leo Hurwitz, film producer; John F. Finerty, attorney in the Sacco-Vanzetti and Mooney-Billing cases; Maxwell Geismar, literary critic; Dr. Bernard D. Davis of Harvard Medical School, and Bishop J. Kenneth Pfohl of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Some 1200 clergymen have also appealed to President Eisenhower in Morton Sobell's behalf. An independent inquiry made by a group that included eminent theologian Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Professor Edmond Cahn of the New York University Law School, concluded that the case against Sobell was "vague in content and slender in proof and recommended commutation of sentence.

####

NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FREEDOM

FOR MORTON SOBELL

Dear

According to your request a room has been reserved for you at the Hotel _____ in Washington at a price of $_____ per night for Friday, Nov.18, Sat.,Nov.19, Sunday, Nov.21.

Private housing has been provided for you in the home of _____ in Washington for Friday night, Nov.18, Saturday night, Nov.19, Sunday night,Nov.20

Before checking in, please stop by or call the Sobell Committe at our Washington headquarters in the Shoreham Hotel, Connecticut Avenue at Calvert in Washington, D.C. for directions and weekend schedules.

Thank you.

P. S. Note the time for the Prayer Meeting at the White House is 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov.20, not as listed on the program.

A CONVENING of AMERICANS
united in the request that
MORTON SOBELL

Program for FREEDOM Weekend

WASHINGTON, D. C.
November 19th, 20th and 21st, 1960

EXHIBIT

Specially assembled National Exhibition
"Americans Appeal for Morton Sobell"
The visual impact of democracy in action
Open to public Friday, November 18, through Sunday, November 20 — 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.

RECEPTION

Gathering of visitors and honored guests
The Hotel Shoreham, Bird Cage Walk
Saturday, November 19, 5:30 P.M.

SOBELL FREEDOM BANQUET

The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom
Saturday, November 19, 7 P.M.
Invocation by Rev. Nelson C. Pierce,
Palisades Community Church, Washington, D. C.
Honored Speakers:
Burns Chalmers - of the American Friends Service Committee, Washington, D. C.
Harold A. Cranefield - Attorney, Detroit, Mich.
Rev. John Paul Jones - Ashfield, Mass.
Mrs. Morton Sobell
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein - National Chairman of the Committee for Labor Israel, Chicago, Ill.
Chairman:
Gerhard Van Arkel - Attorney, Washington, D. C.

PANEL

"Facts and Issues in the Sobell Case"
Prof. Thomas Emerson, Yale Law School
"Further Support for Morton Sobell's Release"
Group Discussion
The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom
Sunday, November 20, 2 P.M.

WHITE HOUSE PRAYER

A sundown prayer for Morton Sobell's freedom
At the White House Sunday, November 20, 6 P.M.
Led by Rev. Alva Tompkins,
Olivet Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.

DELEGATIONS

A day of visiting government representatives on behal

"We concur in the plea for Morton Sobell's freedom, and call upon our fellow citizens to help. It is urgent that the voice of the public be heard in Washington during the coming months to encourage Sobell's release during the traditional Christmas amnesty season."

from an appeal by
REV. SAMUEL H. CASSEL, Cleveland
HAROLD CRANEFIELD, Detroit
PROF. THOMAS EMERSON, Yale Law School
CLARENCE PICKETT, Philadelphia
PROF. MALCOLM SHARP, University of Chicago Law School
DR. HAROLD C. UREY, La Jolla, California
DR. ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN, Berkeley, California

"I am not trained in the law, but I have attempted to study the background. This effort convinced me that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair and adequate trial. I have corresponded with the President and have urged him to consent to a new trial. Although I have been unsuccessful, I am even more convinced that a new trial is essential to the maintenance of American standards of justice. I make no reference to innocence or guilt; I make no plea for clemency or mercy. In asking or demanding that impartial justice be rendered to one man regardless of conditions, I am aware of the fact that I speak out for the future of all men."

U.S. Congressman WILLIAM MEYER, Vermont

"Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least, we the undersigned of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL, England
DR. MARTIN BUBER, Israel

"Undoubtedly, the atmosphere (McCarthyism) has cleared and one evidence is a re-examination of conscience. Last year the Portland Oregonian suggested in an editorial that some day the public conscience might be sufficiently stirred to determine whether Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence for conspiracy, was convicted of a crime or whether he was a victim of the emotionalism surrounding the

"We agree with the jury that Sobell, who protests his innocence, was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released. In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison."

NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK
IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD
in a letter to the New York Times

Historian Carleton Beals calls Sobell's conviction a "brazen denial of elementary rights" and "so absurd it is incredible." Law professors from Yale, the University of Chicago, New York University and other leading institutions have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom. The Central Labor Union Council of Minneapolis, representing 100,000 workers, calls for a new trial. The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, Paperhangers, Local 867, Cleveland, asks President Eisenhower "to take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence. Moreover, 30 years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife and children of Morton Sobell share with him. It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

APPEAL TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER
BY 1,000 CLERGYMEN OF DIFFERENT FAITHS

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman
International League for the Rights of Man

"The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me, no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK
Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there

A number of eminent American jurists and clergymen have raised questions as to whether Morton Sobell was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted and as to whether, if guilty, he has not already been sufficiently punished. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, therefore, respectfully urges the President of the United States to review the case to de-

"This case demonstrates a peculiar twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"

NORMAN THOMAS

"Morton Sobell is serving his 10th year in prison. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence throughout his imprisonment. Many eminent Americans and other world figures, including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed substantial doubt as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day. The California Democratic Council has traditionally expressed concern for possible infringements upon justice and civil liberty. The CDC calls upon the President of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell case and take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

RESOLUTION passed by California Democratic Council meeting attended by 1,000 delegates

STATEMENT BY DISTINGUISHED THEOLOGIANS AND LAW PROFESSORS

AFTER INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE FACTS IN THE SOBELL CASE

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on [illegible], 1951, to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.

2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.

3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.

4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.

5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR
Vice-President and Professor of Ethics and Theology

EDMOND CAHN
Professor of Law
New York University

REV. GROSS W. ALEXANDER, Lucerne Valley, Calif.
DAVID ANDREWS, Boone, N. C.
ROGER N. BALDWIN, New York City
REV. WILLIAM E. BASOM, Alexandria, Va.
RABBI JEROME S. BASS, Natick, Mass.
HELEN M. BEARDSLEY, La Jolla, Calif.
DR. JOHN C. BENNETT, New York City
LEO BERMAN, Chicago, Ill.
RABBI BALFOUR BRICKNER, Washington, D. C.
DR. WILLIAM C. DAVIDON, Chicago, Ill.
MRS. A. POWELL DAVIES, Washington, D. C.
PROF. LLOYD H. DONNELL, Chesterton, Ind.
PROF. THOMAS I. EMERSON, Yale Law School
REV. JOHN E. EVANS, Columbus, Ohio
PROF. ROBERT FINN, Palo Alto, Calif.
RABBI MORRIS FISHMAN, Margate, N. J.
WALDO FRANK, Truro, Mass.
REV. G. SHUBERT FRYE, Syracuse, N. Y.
REV. ERWIN A. GAEDE, Los Angeles, Calif.
REV. RICHARD H. GATCHEL, Palo Alto, Calif.
MAXWELL GEISMAR, Harrison, N. Y.
BENJAMIN GINZBURG, Arlington, Va.
RABBI ROBERT E. GOLDBURG, Hamden, Conn.
RABBI AVERY J. GROSSFIELD, Port Arthur, Texas
REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, New York City
RUSSELL JOHNSON, Petersham, Mass.
REV. JOHN PAUL JONES, Ashfield, Mass.
PROF. HORACE M. KALLEN, New York City
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., Atlanta, Ga.
REV. HENRY C. KOCH, Washington, D. C.
DR. EDWARD D. KORN, Bethesda, Md.
DR. LEO MAYER, New York City
REV. PETER McCORMACK, Daly City, Calif.
DR. GARDNER MURPHY, Topeka, Kansas
DR. REINHOLD NIEBUHR, New York City
PROF. VICTOR PASCHKIS, New York City
REV. DRYDEN L. PHELPS, Berkeley, Calif.
PROF. DALE PONTIUS, Chicago, Ill.
PROF. ANATOL RAPAPORT, Ann Arbor, Mich.
DAVID H. SCULL, Annandale, Va.
PROF. MALCOLM SHARP, Chicago, Ill.
NORMAN THOMAS, New York City
REV. FRANCIS S. TUCKER, Brooklyn, N. Y.
DR. HAROLD C. UREY, La Jolla, Calif.
GERHARD VAN ARKEL, Washington, D. C.
RABBI JACOB J. WEINSTEIN, Chicago, Ill.
PROF. FRANCIS D. WORMUTH, Salt Lake City, Utah
REV. SAMUEL A. WRIGHT, San Rafael, Calif.

as sponsors

invite your participation in

A PRAYER FOR FREEDOM

at the White House, Nov. 20, 1960

67D

Reading of Psalm 103

Prayer:

O Lord our God, who art merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plentious in mercy, look with favor, we pray thee, on those assembled here in the cause of freedom. Inspire their hearts and enlighten their minds that they may bear faithful witness to their brotherly concern for Morton Sobell.

Ty mercy, O Lord, is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that love thee. May our President be endued with a sense of thy mercy, that he may be moved to grant our plea for clemency.

May we lift up our hearts to God in silent prayer asking that His spirit of mercy and love find reception in the heart of our President, that he may have compassion upon our brother and restore him to his family and freedom so that justice may be done.

To Thee, O God, be all honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving, now and forever more. Amen.

[redacted]

NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FREEDOM
OF MORTON SOBELL
% Hotel Shoreham
Washington, D.C.

67D

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 1960

For further information,
call Ted Jacobs at the Shoreham.

JAMES T. FARRELL, NOTED AMERICAN WRITER AND AUTHOR OF THE "STUDS LONIGAN" BOOKS, HAS GIVEN MRS. MORTON SOBELL THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON HER HUSBAND'S CASE FOR USE IN HIS APPEAL FOR FREEDOM.

I have begun to read about the case of Morton Sobell, and I wish to say that I fully support the petition for a pardon, or a release from the Federal prison where he is incarcerated. There is clearly a reasonable doubt as to the allegations of guilt against Morton Sobell. This is more than sufficient, I believe, for granting a rehearing of his case.

I have the great fear and the sick feeling that an innocent man is in prison. I have the conviction that the release of Morton Sobell can only do good, and not harm. Everything I have so far learned about him supports my conviction and I think it seems to me but mere minimum justice now, to restore him to life and to the kind and decent family which loves him.

In 1960, we must speak, and with all urgency. We must cry out, we must demand that no possible instance of "man's inhumanity to man" be tolerated. It is our duty and our honor that we spare no effort for the protection of the innocent, and that in any case of injustice the quickest possible action be taken to rectif this most terrible of evils. Unless justice and compassion and Walt Whitman's love be as normal as our daily life we are sunken far below all of the general principles which proclaim the freedom of man.

Every human being, "every single solitary soul", is entitled to his and her personal dignity. I hold that an indignity to another is an indignity to me; an indignity to anyone is an indignity to all.

It is for us to remember and to preserve all of the noble work of those who have gone, but who have given of their brain, bone and muscle, their blood, to the creation of the dignity of man. It is for us to defend and preserve and to exter that dignity, and when we ourselves are anonymous dust, to leave our memory in future for those who will redeem the injustices of the centuries.

Let us now begin to say and to make real with all our power that justice is a new-born idea. I ask for and I clasp hands with you in calling for the freedom of Morton Sobell.

NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FREEDOM
OF MORTON SOBELL
% Hotel Shoreham
Washington, D.C.

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, Nov. 18, 1960

For further information call Ted Jacobs at the Shoreham

RABBI JACOB J. WEINSTEIN, RABBI AT THE KAM TEMPLE IN CHICAGO AND NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL, HAS WIRED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SOBELL CASE TO THE APPEAL FOR SOBELL'S FREEDOM TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON:

Dear Friends of justice. I regret sincerely that a most urgent congregational crisis prevents my leaving Chicago. I remain steadfast in my conviction that Morton Sobell is innocent of the crimes charged against him, that refusal to free him will be an ugly stain on American justice and further proof that justice and compassion are lacking among those who hold his freedom in the keeping of their hands. As I pray for continued faith and courage for his mother, his wife, and his loyal and devoted friends, I pray also that our country may prove mature enough to accept differences of political opinion, even radical difference from majority views, as a healthy safeguard of the democratic process and that we may speedily free ourselves from the evil influence of those who believe that an objectionable idea can be answered by imprisoning its advocate.

I trust that the mandate of November 8th, the spirit of this Thanksgiving season which recalls the fortitude of those who founded this land of the brave and the free, the noble persistance of the ever-growing company of friends for justice for Morton Sobell will bring a blessed release and restoration for one too long intimate with grief and acquainted with sorrow. May we all soon meet again to celebrate the triumphs of our cause.

# # #

The New York Times.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1960

An Urgent Public Issue:

FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

This brochure is reprinted as a public service from the ad which appeared in the New York Times of June 20, 1960.

If you agree with the speakers that Morton Sobell should be released, please write directly to The President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D.C., and fill out the following form and mail it today.

Sponsors of the Sobell Discussion Meeting
P. O. Box No. 343, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N.Y.

I would like to be included among those supporting the plea to the President ~~for commuting~~ the 30 year sentence for Morton Sobell to the time already served, almost 10 years.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____ _____

An Urgent Public Issue:

FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

Reverend John Haynes Holmes
Professor Victor Paschkis
Reverend A. J. Muste
Rabbi Harry Halpern
Jerome Nathanson
Maxwell Geismar
Murray Kempton
Dr. Leo Mayer
Max Eastman
Conrad Lynn
Howard Radest
John F. Finerty
Norman Thomas
Dr. Horace Kallen
Dwight Macdonald
Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
Reverend Thomas Kilgore
Reverend Donald Harrington

Morton Sobell has been in prison for nearly ten years. The charge: conspiracy to commit espionage. The sentence: 30 years. Mr. Sobell has from the beginning maintained his innocence. Many who have studied the trial record of his case are convinced of a miscarriage of justice.

Invite you to

read this summary of a meeting, attended by 600 persons, which we, the above, sponsored to discuss an urgent public issue: The CASE OF MORTON SOBELL. The meeting was held at the Community Church

Chairman: WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER, attorney, associate professor at New York Law School, author of radio program "Justice" and moderator of "Pro and Con" program, WMCA radio:

Before giving you a little background on the Sobell case, I want to make it quite clear that I am speaking for myself and not for any of the institutions with which I am associated. The Rosenberg and Sobell cases were, unfortunately, intertwined. When the joint case went to the three-judge Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Judge Jerome Frank dissented. He voted to give Sobell a new trial on the ground that Hon. Irving R. Kaufman, the trial judge, had permitted the case to go to the jury with only one conspiracy pointed out when in reality there might be two conspiracies, the one in which Sobell might have been involved having, as Judge Kaufman himself admitted, no "connection with the atom bomb project."

While I believe the Rosenbergs were guilty, **it is questionable whether there was sufficient evidence against Sobell to have gone to the jury.** My study of the case indicates the possibility that he may be innocent, but in any event, I feel that his sentence was unjustifiably severe and that the ten years he has spent in Alcatraz and Atlanta are ample punishment.

The chief witness against Sobell was a former friend named Max Elitcher. In his testimony, which was totally uncorroborated, he said that Sobell had inducted him into the Communist Party. Elitcher mentioned a number of conversations in which he said Sobell had asked him to (1) obtain espionage recruits, (2) obtain classified information about fire control systems, and (3) remain with the Navy Department. He also stated that Julius Rosenberg had mentioned Sobell at one time as being part of an espionage group.

There was one other portion of Elitcher's testimony that suggested that Sobell was involved in some sort of nebulous contact with some very unspecific espionage. Elitcher said that he drove to New York from Washington in the summer of 1948 and when he arrived at Sobell's home in Flushing, informed him that he thought he had been followed by several cars on the trip north. He testified that Sobell became very agitated and asked him to drive with him in his car to the neighborhood in Manhattan where Julius Rosenberg lived. While Elitcher remained sitting in the car, Sobell disappeared for half an hour with what Elitcher thought looked like a can of 35 mm film.

On cross-examination, Elitcher admitted he was extremely frightened by the fact that he had lied under oath on an application for government employment and that he was worried about a perjury prosecution. But he admitted that he had hopes "that the best will happen to me."

The only other evidence against Sobell consisted of proof that he left for Mexico in June of 1950 before the arrest of Julius Rosenberg. He informed William Danziger, a former City College classmate, that he was taking a vacation with his family. While in Mexico, he used various aliases and made trips to the Mexican seaports of Vera Cruz and Tampico.

What may have hurt Sobell the most so far as the jury was concerned, was his failure to testify at the trial. This was, of course, a decision made by his attorneys. If I had been conducting his defense I don't know what I would have done on this score. But in the light of hindsight, I think this worked against him, particularly as it left unanswered Elitcher's accusations, the reasons for the Mexican trip and the use of aliases. It was a calculated risk at best, the more so when one recalls that the North Korean aggression, which started in June of 1950, had put some heat into the cold war. In the light of this country's understandable reaction, Morton Sobell's silence was a grave mistake and undoubtedly contributed to his conviction.

DWIGHT MACDONALD, author, critic, writer for the NEW YORKER and ESQUIRE magazines:

I'm here because I believe Morton Sobell has been unjustly treated. The nine years he has served are more than enough punishment for the crime of which he was convicted. I've read the entire court record of the Rosenberg-Sobell case and I must say I think they received a fair trial. I'm also sorry to say that I think Sobell was guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

Nevertheless, it was never clear why in the world Sobell should have been tried along with the Rosenbergs. **When he sentenced Sobell, Judge Kaufman said: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atomic bomb project,"** which is quite explicit. And then he went on to sentence him to 30 years.

Now this is a fantastic sentence, even if you think as I do that Sobell was guilty. (I may be wrong, I hope I am wrong.) But anyway, the only thing he was shown to have done was extremely vague and nebulous. I don't remember a single piece of concrete data which Elitcher was able to bring up that was actually passed on.

I don't understand why the Supreme Court, which in general has been quite good in the last ten years, didn't do something about this whole case. I opposed the death sentence against the Rosenbergs on moral grounds, and on the practical ground that Judge Kaufman and the people who allowed the thing to go through dealt a very great blow to the United States throughout the world. This country appears especially bad when you think of the sentences that England imposed on Alan Nunn May, and especially Klaus Fuchs. May got 10 years. Fuchs got 14 and was released ~~a year or so~~ ago after serving nine years.

The Rosenbergs are dead. We can't do anything about this miscarriage of justice. But justice can still be done to Morton Sobell, and also to Harry Gold, who unlike Sobell, cooperated fully with the American authorities and yet was given 30 years.

NORMAN THOMAS:

My own position on the Sobell case is admirably summarized in this very succinct statement which has been widely given out (study by group of theologians and law professors including Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and Professor Edmond Cahn of the New York University law school, calling the case against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof" and asking commutation of sentence). **I am quite convinced that Mr. Sobell should have had another trial, in view of the facts cited here and also in view of the dubious administration of due process in the manner in which he was hauled out of Mexico.** I was disappointed that the Supreme Court did not grant that trial. Of myself, I am not convinced by what I have read, either of his complete innocence or of his guilt.

This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction? Men have committed horrible crimes of which there has not been the slightest doubt and got the sentence of 10 years, 15 years, and have been admitted to parole. But not Sobell.

Under our law we have denied the existence of a special category of political prisoners. They're all criminals — the gangster, the murderer, the rapist — and so is the Communist and we treat them all alike. But we don't. The embezzler, yes the murderer, has a better chance of getting parole under certain circumstances.

This is a shame to the country. It's a weakness that we, so strong — that we who dare to say we lead the free world, that somehow, somewhere inside us there is such a spirit of fear, of dread, of hate, or vengeance that we mete out 30 years to Sobell for what he did, without mercy. And God knows we mete out perhaps death to Henry Winston, a Smith Act prisoner whose sight is almost gone through a brain tumor. But the sentence still stands, no mercy, no parole.

Men who are too sophisticated to say it, men who perhaps won't admit it to themselves, those men carry on their misconceptions of justice and mercy because they think you and I like it.

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK of San Francisco, former Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there:

"Best wishes for a successful meeting. Truth and justice will prevail. Morton Sobell will be vindicated. Hundreds of clergy who signed the clergy appeal stand fast in their belief that Sobell is innocent. We join you in urging his release."

MRS. MORTON SOBELL:

If those who believe that Morton is guilty are willing to stand up here on this platform tonight and ask for his release, how much more is it my responsibility, who know his innocence to ask that you be concerned with this case!

We are going back into the courts to ask for a new trial, which would surely vindicate my husband. During the last year we have seen many requests for a commutation and for a new trial of Morton's case, including appeals by professors of law at New York, Chicago, Yale, Cornell and Northwestern Universities. Almost one thousand clergymen have asked for Morton's freedom. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has asked for a re-examination of this case, as has the California Democratic Council in a meeting of 3,000 delegates. There have been, among others, editorials in the CHRISTIAN CENTURY, the PORTLAND OREGONIAN, the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL. On the world scene, Lord Bertrand Russell, Martin Buber, a group of 15 prominent Israelis, Pablo Casals, Jean-Paul Sartre, and many others have asked for Morton's freedom.

This decade has not been lacking in sorrow and suffering for us as a family. We wanted, Morton and I, to have more children together. We wanted to live normal lives. Despite prison, we have tried to do this in every way we could. We love each other dearly. For the sake of children, and because Morton is a fine person and a competent scientist, we need him at home. Please help.

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman, International League for the Rights of Man:

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges. The injustice done under the pressures of the time should be righted, so far as that is possible, by a speedy commutation to the time served, already too long."

CAREY McWILLIAMS, editor of the Nation magazine:

"I have always thought that Sobell was improperly convicted and that the evidence against him was wholly insufficient. This is no recent conviction. I have thought this way for a long time, and had occasion to say so at a Sobell dinner meeting in Chicago quite some years ago."

CONRAD LYNN, attorney specializing in the civil liberties field:

I can't claim to come here tonight with a dispassionate view of the evidence against Sobell. By nature, I am a partisan. I want to congratulate not only the speakers, but this audience. It's a sign that the McCarthy period is coming to an end.

We once again see stirring the spirit that animated the rebel, Patrick Henry, to say, "Give me liberty or give me death." We're getting more of that spirit from those Southern Negro students. There is an upsurge, not just of Negroes. Because their conditions are the most severe, it is only natural that they should make the first break. This resurgence is the guarantee we have that political prisoners such as Morton Sobell will be free.

At the time that Morton Sobell was convicted, we had a classic instance of the pressure and influence of the mob spirit, and I say mob spirit because any mass pressure for conviction, regardless of evidence, is a mob spirit.

Regardless of the minutiae of evidence and regardless of the debates over whether this bit should have turned the scales or that bit, when we know that this savage sentence was meted out in the atmosphere of the time in which it was rendered, then we have an obligation at another period such as this to demand a review.

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM MEYER, Democrat, Vermont:

"I am not trained in the law but I have attempted to study the background. This effort convinced me that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair and adequate trial. I have corresponded with the President and have urged him to consent to a new trial. Although, I have been unsuccessful, I am even more convinced that a new trial is essential to the maintenance of American standards of justice. I make no reference to innocence or guilt; I make no pleas for clemency or mercy. In asking or demanding that impartial justice be rendered to one man regardless of conditions, I am aware of the fact that I speak out for the future of all men."

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN RANDALL S. HARMON, Democrat, 10th District, Indiana:

I consider it my duty to participate in this meeting because wherever there are questions of justice involved, every American should examine the facts. It is good that men of conscience and integrity who are highly respected throughout the country are uniting to sponsor this public discussion in the case of Morton Sobell. I have looked into Sobell's case and I am convinced that the 30-year sentence is completely out of line.

Mr. Sobell, now in his 10th year of prison, has always maintained his innocence. **The possibility that an innocent man is imprisoned calls for careful study and positive action.** It would, I believe, be in the public interest that Sobell be freed, and I intend to do everything in my power to see that this be done as quickly as possible.

I don't know anything about the other people that were involved in this same case. I've never thought that capital punishment was the answer. Perhaps one reason why Morton Sobell has been imprisoned this long and why they won't give him another day in court is because it might be discovered that these other people were also innocent.

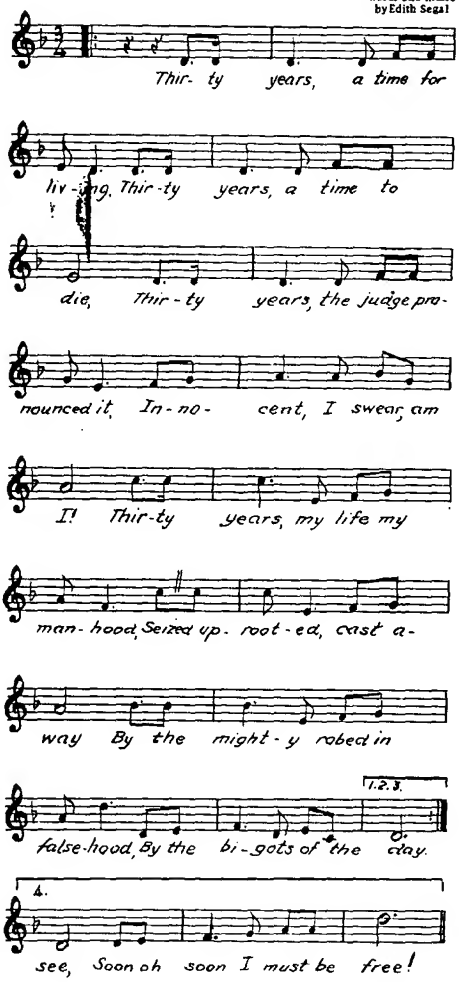
HOWARD RADEST, minister and leader of the Bergen, New Jersey, Ethical Society:

I think the innocence or guilt of a human being is not to be bandied in words before a large audience. What I am concerned about is the strange picture of human beings in the middle of the 20th century, with so many big things going on, who are willing to devote time and energy and effort to consider the fate of one single living human being. **If we should ever lose this ability to be concerned about one, then whatever else we gain, we have indeed lost.** The important thing that you can do as you go home is to let others know about the case and about what is being done. This would be just as important as those who can give money. Do both.

THIRTY YEARS

A Ballad for Morton Sobell

words and music
by Edith Segal



THIRTY YEARS

Thirty years, a time for living,
Thirty years, a time to die,
Thirty years, the judge pronounced it,
Innocent, I swear, am I!

Thirty years, my life, my manhood,
Seized, uprooted, cast away
By the mighty robed in falsehood,
By the bigots of the day.

Listen all who walk in freedom,
Listen all who treasure time,
Listen all who've tasted terror,
What is justice, what is crime?

Shall I languish here forgotten
On the perjured word of one
Or will valiant men and women
Cry for justice to be done?

Ten gone years lie cold and fallow,
Twenty more? It cannot be!
Voices rise and high walls crumble,
Days of home again I see!

I'll return to you dear children,
Brave, sweet mother, sterling wife,
We will welcome Spring together,
We'll retrieve our stolen life.

Oh to walk among the people,
Clasp their hands, their faces see
In the sunlight, working, singing,
Soon, oh soon I must be free!

Oh to walk among the people,
Clasp their hands, their faces see,
Voices rise and high walls crumble,
Days of home again I see,
Soon, oh soon I must be free!

67D

SPONSORS OF THE NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FREEDOM OF MORTON SOBELL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 19-21, 1960

Rabbi Morris Adler, Detroit, Michigan
Reverend Gross W. Alexander, Lucerne Valley, California
David Andrews, Boone, North Carolina
Reverend William T. Baird, Chicago, Illinois
Roger Baldwin, New York, New York
Reverend Frederic E. Ball, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend William E. Basom, Alexandria, Virginia
Rabbi Jerome S. Bass, Natick, Massachusetts
Helen M. Beardsley, La Jolla, California
Dr. John C. Bennett, New York, New York
Leo Berman, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend Eugene Birmingham, Chicago, Illinois
Professor and Mrs. Peter M. Blau, Chicago, Illinois
Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Washington, D.C.
Reverend Marvin Ceynar, Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Clarence Cohn, Winnetka, Illinois
Professor Carl W. Condit, Evanston, Illinois
Harold A. Cranefield, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Dr. William C. Davidon, Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. A. Powell Davies, Washington, D.C.
Professor Lloyd H. Donnell, Chesterton, Indiana
Reverend Eugene Durham, Palmyra, New York
Professor Thomas I. Emerson, Yale Law School
Reverend Darrell D. English, Elmhurst, Illinois
Reverend John E. Evans, Columbus, Ohio
Professor Robert Finn, Palo Alto, California
Rabbi Morris Fishman, Margate, New Jersey
Waldo Frank, Truro, Massachusetts
Maurice Friedlander, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend G. Shubert Frye, Syracuse, New York
Reverend Richard H. Gatchel, Palo Alto, California
Maxwell Geismar, Harrison, New York
George Miles Gibson, Chicago, Illinois
Benjamin Ginzburg, Arlington, Virginia
Dr. Maurice F. Gleason, Chicago, Illinois
Rabbi Robert E. Goldburg, Hamden, Connecticut
Reverend John N. Gregg, Chicago, Illinois
Rabbi Avery J. Grossfield, Port Arthur, Texas
Pearl M. Hart, Chicago, Illinois
Robert J. Havighurst, Chicago, Illinois
Professor A. Eustace Haydon, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend John Haynes Holmes, New York, New York
Russell Johnson, Petersham, Massachusetts
Reverend John Paul Jones, Ashfield, Massachusetts
Reverend Robert P. Johnson, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Horace M. Kallen, New York, New York
Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Atlanta, Georgia
Reverend Henry C. Koch, Washington, D.C.
Dr. Edward D. Korn, Bethesda, Maryland
Louis N. Kurs, Chicago, Illinois
Charles H. Lyttle, Chicago, Illinois
Marcia J. Lyttle, Chicago, Illinois
Lafayette Marsh, La Grange, Illinois
Dr. Leo Mayer, New York, New York
Reverend Peter McCormack, Daly City, California
Dr. Gardner Murphy, Topeka, Kansas
Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, New York, New York
Reverend James Neuman, Chicago, Illinois
Victor Obenhaus, Chicago, Illinois
Professor Victor Paschkis, New York, New York
Louis I. Perlman, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend Dryden L. Phelps, Berkeley, California
Professor Dale Pontius, Chicago, Illinois
Professor Anatol Rapaport, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Professor Paul A. Schilpp, Glenview, Illinois
Reverend Dr. Howard Schomer, Chicago, Illinois
David H. Scull, Annandale, Virginia
Professor Malcolm Sharp, Chicago, Illinois
Reverend Don Snider, Dixon, Illinois
Reverend William T. Starr, Evanston, Illinois
Norman Thomas, New York, New York
Reverend Francis S. Tucker, Brooklyn, New York
Dr. Harold C. Urey, La Jolla, California
Gerhard Van Arkel, Washington, D.C.
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, Chicago, Illinois
Professor Francis D. Wormuth, Salt Lake City, Utah
Reverend Samuel A. Wright, San Rafael, California
Rabbi S. Burr Yampol, Chicago, Illinois.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Hon. John F. Kennedy

Hyannis Port, Mass.

Hon. John F. Kennedy, President-Elect
Hyannis Port, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We are confident that as President of the United States two of your chief objectives will be to restore the prestige of our country and maintain world peace.

We and all our friends hope that you will surround yourself with such able advisors as Adlai Stevenson and Chester Bowles, who will help you attain these two vital objectives.

Respectfully yours,

.....

.....

ACT NOW TO FREE MORTON SOBELL FROM PRISON

For 10 years Morton Sobell, an American scientist, has been in prison. Public opinion urgently demands his release. Experts question whether he had a fair trial. Thousands believe him innocent of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge on which he was condemned to 30 years. Others say the 30-year sentence is outrageous.

See inside for more information

Help right this wrong by signing the appeal below to President Eisenhower. By folding this page, it conveniently becomes ready for stamping and mailing to Washington.

Dear Mr. President:

On November 19th, 20th and 21st there will be a convening in Washington of Americans representing the thousands who are asking freedom for Morton Sobell during the traditional amnesty period at Christmas. Because so many eminent individuals and organizations have raised questions about his continued imprisonment, I would like to join in asking a commutation of his sentence.

Mr. Sobell has steadfastly maintained he is completely innocent. His ~~30-year~~ sentence contrasts sharply with lesser sentences given in espionage cases even to persons who pleaded guilty, such as Klaus Fuchs, Alan Nunn May and Francis Powers. Mr. Sobell has already served 10 years. Certainly he and his family have suffered enough, and it is time to be merciful and grant him release.

-----fold along dotted line-----

From:

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city and state) _____

place 4¢ stamp here

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Here are but a few examples of what America's conscience says about the Sobell case

LABOR

The Central Labor Union Council of Minneapolis, representing 100,000 workers, calls for a new trial... The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, Paperhangers, Local 867, Cleveland, asks President Eisenhower "to take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."... Labor attorneys Harold Cranefield of Detroit and Gerhard Van Arkel of Washington have asked Sobell's release.

POLITICAL SPOKESMEN

The California Democratic Council, in asking a review by the President: "There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day."... U. S. Congressman Randall S. Harmon, Indiana: "The possibility that an innocent man is imprisoned calls for careful study and positive action."

CIVIL LIBERTARIANS

Norman Thomas: "Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"... Roger Baldwin, Chairman, International League for the Rights of Man: "I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."

CLERGY

1000 clergymen of different faiths have appealed for Morton Sobell's freedom... The Central Conference of American Rabbis has asked President Eisenhower to review the case... Reverend Peter McCormack, Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there, says: "The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS

Nobel Prize scientist Dr. Harold C. Urey: "I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."... Historian Carleton Beals calls Sobell's conviction a "brazen denial of elementary rights" and "so absurd it is incredible."... Law professors from Yale, the University of Chicago, New York University and other leading institutions have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom.

For more information or to send a financial contribution
to help Morton Sobell's appeals
please contact
The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell

Place
4c Stamp
Here

Mr. Morton Sobell

P.M.B. 71342

Atlanta 15, Georgia

Place
Stamp
Here

b7D

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

The White House

Washington, D. C.

Season's Greetings

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Because, like thousands of Americans, I believe that Morton Sobell did not have a fair trial and consider his 30-year sentence cruel and inhuman punishment;

Because Morton Sobell has steadfastly maintained his innocence throughout his imprisonment; and

Because the holiday season is a time to renounce vengeance and to actively seek justice and good will toward all men; therefore I urge you to grant clemency to Morton Sobell at this time.

_____

_____

If a person's religion is a way of life, a religious liberal in one area presupposes a liberal position in the others. The alternative is schizophrenia.

When conscience speaks, religious liberals often tend to become frustrated. The lack of an orientation, a yardstick, hamstrings action. Feeling strongly, yet prevented from expressing their feelings through action, many of us have become maladjusted. "Thus conscience does make cowards of us all; and thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought, and enterprises of great pith and moment with this regard their currents turn awry, and lose the name of action."

By action in consonance with our beliefs, we may restore our sanity.

Transcribed by Hazel Stevenson

A Sermon Delivered on April 12, 1959
by
SAMUEL A. WRIGHT, Jr.
Minister

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF MARIN

Meeting in the
Tamalpais Centre Women's Club
Kentfield, California

67D

WHEN CONSCIENCE SPEAKS

A Sermon Delivered by
Reverend Samuel A. Wright, Jr.

WHEN CONSCIENCE SPEAKS

"The execution took place on August 23, 1927..... The troops were called out to protect the prison and the home of Judge Thayer, who never needed much of a guard because, for the few unhappy years he lived, he was a serviceable red tag for the 'reds.' Who judged Dreyfus? Who judged Mooney? A dead judge isn't of any use to the opposition.....Vanzetti said: 'I want to thank you for all you have done for me, warden. I want to tell you that I am innocent and that I have never committed any crime but sometimes some sin. I thank you for everything you have done for me. I am innocent of all crime, not only this, but all. I am an innocent man. I wish to forgive some people for what they are now doing to me.' The warden, who was in no way responsible, was hardly able to make the prescribed announcement after the execution." *

This was the report of Phil Stong, at that time feature writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance. I was 8 years old in 1927, but I do recall the question of injustice being raised at the dinner table, attached to the names Sacco and Vanzetti. I remember my father saying, "They must be guilty or they would not be executed." Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested during the great red hunt of 1920; a shoe workman and a pushcart fish peddler. As Phil Stong reported at the time of the trial, "There had been so much newspaper agitation against the murderous 'reds' that the chauvinistic louts on the jury would have convicted Bart Vanzetti of riding a broomstick if he had had a splinter in his finger. Being a wandering fish peddler, his alibi was worthless." *

I was just learning to walk when Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested, and I must admit that until a few weeks ago, these names were to me only some kind of a war-cry, like "Remember the Alamo," whenever someone felt there was an unjust accusation of a crime. As I read the reports of the case, I ran across this statement by a conservative editor of the Boston Transcript. "No, of course they weren't guilty. When you are familiar with the transcript, which you can't be through the newspaper reporting of the trial, you'll see that it's more or less insulting to anyone's intelligence to ask that question..... If they'd been railroaded intelligently it would have saved all this." *

* * * * *

I have recently finished reading the one thousand seven hundred and fifteen pages of transcript of the Rosenberg-Sobell "conspiracy" trial which resulted in the electrocution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, June 19, 1953, and the sentencing of Morton Sobell to thirty years in prison. It was because so much reference was made to Sacco and Vanzetti in relation to this trial, that I informed myself on that case also.

I must confess that I had not explored this matter before because I have great faith in our courts, and I know there are spies and it is the court's job to look after the matter, so why bother. I must also admit that I have felt for a long time that this Rosenberg-Sobell affair was a blurred picture, and was on my conscience, but when conscience speaks, it does make cowards of us all; and if I did not look too deeply I might not need become concerned. Besides, I have much else that concerns me and the days are short.

However, on February 2nd, a Presbyterian clergyman who was just completing a lifetime in the ministry called on me at the church office. He introduced himself as the Reverend Peter Mc Cormack, Minister of Visitation of Saint John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and former protestant chaplain at Alcatraz. He said that he was there on behalf of Morton Sobell. I then recalled that it was Reverend Mc Cormack who after five years as chaplain at Alcatraz had signed a petition asking for a new trial for Morton Sobell (who was then in Alcatraz) and he was relieved of his job for being too zealous for the welfare of the prisoners.

I am afraid I gave this elderly Scotch minister a rough time, for it is written in the Panchatantra of around 300 B.C., "Guilty consciences always make people cowards," and Shakespeare picked up the refrain in Hamlet, "Thus conscience does make cowards of us all; and thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the past cast of thought, and enterprises of great pith and moment with this regard their currents turn awry, and lose the name of action." I asked the Reverend Mc Cormack why I should be more concerned about Sobell than any of the other persons on whose behalf I might act or had acted. Hadn't the case been before the Supreme Court of the United States? I asked him why he was so concerned about one man over and above many others. I even asked him what role the Communist Party members had in this case--and how did he know that he was not being used by forces that were not at all interested in justice?

Very simply, he told me that as Chaplain at Alcatraz, he became personally closely acquainted with Morton Sobell, that from his more than 30 years in the parish ministry, he felt he knew Sobell well enough to say that he believed he was utterly incapable of what he was charged; that Morton Sobell was a man of professed convictions in the best things of our tradition. He said that out of his interest in the man, he acquired a copy of the trial transcript, and upon reading it became convinced of Sobell's innocence.

What Reverend Mc Cormack wanted from me was to join in a commission of inquiry that would meet

*"The Last Days of Sacco and Vanzetti" -- The Aspirin Age, Isabel Leighton, Simon & Schuster, 1949.

the requirements for the kind of scholarly, independent and objective investigation necessary to raise the need for a reappraisal of the case, to the end that enough public opinion might be brought to bear so that new evidence and obvious perjury would open the matter for a new look, with the reflection that comes from the passage of time, and a freedom from fears and passions of a few years ago. Moreover, he pointed out, Morton Sobell, maintaining his innocence, remains imprisoned under a thirty year sentence, thus giving an urgency in human terms as well as in historical necessity.

I told the Reverend Peter Mc Cormack that if he would send me a copy of the trial transcript, I would carefully read it and give him my answer after I had, in effect, done the independent investigation necessary for me to express an opinion. He sent me the 8 booklets of the transcript which I still have to return. After reading the transcript carefully I have come to the same conclusion as Dr. Harold C. Urey, the world renowned atomic scientist of the University of Chicago, that "the proof of the guilt of Morton Sobell is far from satisfactory to me," and that "additional evidence substantiating my suspicions has convinced me that the jury's verdict of guilty was incorrect and that the Rosenbergs were not 'guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.'" *

Well, what can be accomplished by bringing up these matters after the Rosenbergs have been executed? As Dr. Urey said, "This case is of interest to all who work on secret military matters, for such people are less secure than they were previously. This practice of giving immunity to criminals (as in this case) in payment for testimony is particularly pernicious. One criminal accuses another who again accuses another until perhaps an innocent person is accused and the chain is broken and we give the maximum punishment to the innocent person. The system encourages criminals. If you wish to commit a crime, pick out one of your 'friends' or a relative whom you do not like, compromise him in various ways (namely ask him to ask his physician about necessary innoculations for a trip to Mexico), then commit the crime and if caught give evidence against your 'accomplice' and go free! Or, perhaps someone else is doing this and you are the 'accomplice' without knowing it at all. The practice sets the stage for framing innocent people, and people who carry military secrets in their minds are particularly threatened. Moreover, communism and espionage are not fought by executing innocent people." *

Sobell and his family went to Mexico. The prosecution insisted that he went there to flee the country, and a card with the words "Deported from Mexico" stamped on it was presented in court as evidence of flight. Today there are official documents from the Mexican government stating that their government had nothing to do with the kidnapping of Morton Sobell. * He was taken from his family in Mexico City by men claiming to be Mexican secret police and charged with being a Johnny Jones who robbed a bank in Acapulco of $15,000. He was refused a request to contact the American embassy, was beaten unconscious, driven to Laredo, Texas, and delivered to a waiting party of FBI agents. He had tourist cards in his own name; he declared his camera in Dallas, Texas, in his own name in order to avoid tariff on his return home. Sobell's airline tickets, visa, and camera declaration were in the FBI's possession until 1954, (three years after the trial) when they were then released to Sobell's attorneys who have incoporated them in the petitions which were recently before the courts. Another incredible thing in relationship to Sobell's trial is that only one witness testified that Sobell had been involved in a conspiracy. This witness, Max Elitcher, a boyhood friend and former classmate, and a confessed perjurer and inveterate liar, had the powerful motive of escaping a prison sentence when he acted as a witness for the prosecution. Judge Kaufman himself said when he instructed the jury, "If you do not believe the testimony of Max Elitcher as it pertains to Morton Sobell, then you must acquit the defendant Sobell." That jury in 1951 chose to believe Max Elitcher, and Judge Kaufman sentenced Morton Sobell to thirty years.

There are many aspects of this case into which I might go if I had the time this morning, so you might understand why I believe it is most important that this whole matter be reopened -- if for no other reason than our children's sake, because of the kind of climate which we bequeath the next generation! When conscience speaks, it does make cowards of us all, but some of us have been forced into the open in the cause of justice. I feel as Lord Bertrand Russell did when he wrote: "I am ashamed to say that at the time of the Rosenberg-Sobell trial I did not look into the evidence. I have now done so. I am almost certain that the Rosenbergs were innocent.....But the Rosenbergs are dead and nothing can be done for them. Sobell, however, is alive and it is not too late for the U. S. Government to make some reparation to him."

To those of you who have never questioned the guilt of those convicted in the Rosenberg-Sobell case, this sermon no doubt comes as something of a shock. It comes as a shock to anyone who implicitly trusts the justice of American legal procedure. In speaking of the Rosenbergs, Dr. Harold Urey said, "People ask why the prosecuting attorney and the FBI and the judge should wish to see two insignificant people put to death unjustly. After considerable conversations with lawyers on this subject, including one who worked on the government side of this case, I concluded that lawyers are more interested in whether all the legal machinery functions according to all the rules, and are not in the least interested in the arguments which are important to me. There are exceptions, of course

* Was Justice Done? Malcolm P. Sharp (Introduction by Harold C. Urey) Monthly Review Press, 1956

* The Rev. Irwin Gaede, Unitarian Church of Westwood, California

Personally, I do not know whether the Rosenbergs, or Morton Sobell are guilty or innocent. But I am convinced in my own mind that much more should be heard in a case where lies and counter lies are obviously in evidence. If we believe in the striving for justice and moral integrity in our country, this is a matter which concerns each of us. My conscience will not let this matter lie.

Do you recall a senate investigating committee wondering how it could be possible that the Russians could have sent two sputniks into outer space while we had sent none and deciding to inquire of David Greenglass in Lewisburg penitentiary -- the same David Greenglass whose testimony sent his sister and brother-in-law (the Rosenbergs) to the electric chair? The committee came forth with the statement that the Rosenbergs had given space travel information to the Russians more than ten years ago -- the inference apparently being that we knew how to launch a successful satellite over a decade ago, but that by stealing our "secrets" the Russians beat us into outer space! Would any reputable scientist confirm such a story? Yet this statement was made by the same man who was the chief witness in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial.

The Dreyfus affair in France, the Sacco-Vanzetti case in our country, the political climate of the early 1950's, with the loose nature of conspiracy charges where little was needed to convict, the plausibility of evidence by perjurers and self-confessed spies, all this weighs upon my conscience. The climate in which the Rosenberg-Sobell case was heard bordered on the hysterical. It was a fearful time to speak out. I signed a petition (a citizen's constitutional method of expression) and made the front page of the Boston Traveler, with all the inference that I was part of a plot to overthrow the United States Government and turn it over to the Soviet Union! There was very little sanity about, and it seemed as if the world had gone a little mad.

I must confess that I, too, was a little mad. I could have done much more than I did. The mark of madness is disorientation, and I think even today the religious liberal has badly lost his sense of direction. We are confused, bewildered, and thwarted. In these turbulent and challenging times, emotions well up to seek expression; but the liberal cannot merely emote, he must reason his reaction and understand in order to believe. He must believe in order to act, even as he must act to affirm his belief. He is suspicious of authority, allergic to propaganda, yet he must have information in order to understand. Being overwhelmed by competing, often conflicting propagandas, he is confused, thwarted, maladjusted.

Someone coined the phrase, "We suffer the paralysis of analysis." True as this is it does not describe what seems to be the basic malady. The basic malady, it seems to me, is our loss of faith in moral law. The detachment of moral law from superstitious sanctions has reduced its impressiveness. With no Hell and no wrath of God to punish the wrong doer, evil has become less frightening, and so with other dogmas of religion. What we often fail to see is that dogmas come and go but the values and the sense of enduring purposes which these things symbolized are the foundation of civilization. And when they have gone, so has each civilization in history.

Since the end of the second world war we have talked about the desperateness of our situation and have acted as though it were not desperate at all. We are schizoid -- a nation with a split personality. And it is high time we became cured of it. This is not just a matter of government. I happen to know among many business concerns it is a common practice to employ specialists in the avoidance of taxes. A battle of wits goes on between those who draft tax bills and those who search for loopholes in the legislation. This is not illegal; but then neither is it illegal for a collector of taxes to buy an automobile at a friendly price. It is a matter not of legality but of morality. The next step, of course, comes when the collector is expected to favor the automobile dealer when he finds himself in tax difficulties. Of course you can say why be fussy? Why not get wise and do what everybody else does? Lobbyists for big concerns succeed in influencing legislation. The newspapers are not honest. They seldom print what might reduce their advertising. Even the churches are not honest. How often do they preach the truth to the big contributors? This disease is international in scope -- attacking nations, groups, and individuals. It is a philosophy of reaction which in the early 1950's, in fear of real or imagined threats to the status quo, took refuge in name-calling, suppressive activities, the illusion of infallibility, and the refusal to tolerate disagreement however sincere. It is the philosophy of the pseudo-radical, the militant revolutionist who would overthrow by violence one form of tyranny only to put in its place a more sweeping, more dictatorial tyranny of another sort. It is not new. It is as old as history. It conducts inquisitions. It shies at shadows and finds bogey-men (whether called fascists or communists) lurking around every corner of social change, hiding under the beds of respectable citizens, or threatening the masses. My point is that liberals in religion have allowed themselves to be taunted by those who personify the exact opposite. Citizens who pride themselves upon democracy in religious matters often prove intolerant -- even aggressively authoritarian -- in politics or industrial relations. I heard them try to outlaw the same party and for the same reasons of hysteria that led us to bill Hitler after World War I "as a bulwark against communism." We too easily forget that this means our political party may be outlawed tomorrow by majority rule. Preachers of the open mind in theological matters often become vehement with those who hold opposing views in other areas.

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 P.M. SUNDAY, NOV.20

Excerpts from a Talk by Professor Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale Law School scheduled for Delivery at a Panel Discussion on the Morton Sobell Case at the Hotel Shoreham, Sunday, Nov. 20, 1960.

The reason for our meeting is, of course, the growing convi that injustice has been done in the trial, conviction and the co tinuing imprisonment of Morton Sobell. I share that conviction, I want, at the outset, to give my reasons to you.

First, a few words as to the facts and the background of th case. The bare facts are, I am sure, known to all of us: Morto Sobell was indicted in October, 1950, along with the Rosenbergs two other conspirators for committing espionage. It was charged they had transmitted information essential to the security of the United States to a foreign power, namely the Soviet Union.

The trial of the three defendants (two were not included in trial), the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell, took place in March, 19 They were, as you know, convicted. The Rosenbergs were sentenced death and Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He served the beginning of that time, and until 1958 in Alcatraz. I 1958 he was transferred to Atlanta.

By way of further background, I think it is important to remember the tense and hysterical atmosphere at the time of the t and the subsequent appeals. It was February 9, 1950, that Senato McCarthy made his first speech at Wheeling in which he held in hi hand a list of 205 members of the Communist Party in the federal government. It was the beginning of the McCarthy campaign.

The trial began on March 6, 1951. On March 8, 1951, the Committee on Unamerican Activities opened its famous hearing on Hollywood, the motion picture industry. And so it went on during that period. It was hardly a period for calm consideration or reflective judgment. It was, rather, a period of fear-ridden pani and intemperate action. We are generally, gradually, I think, becoming ashamed of many of the things we did during that time, or allowed others to do.

Now I want to state briefly the reasons why I feel that the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell infringed upon his rights upon our feelings of justice. First of all, is the matter of the abduction from Mexico. In June of 1950, Morton Sobell went to Mex with his family, lived in an apartment there under his own name. Eight o'clock one evening, Mexican Secret Service Police in plain clothes entered the apartment, seized Sobell, took him out to a ca beat him into unconsciousness. He was put into a car and driven t the United States border, and there he was turned over to agents o the United States who were ready and waiting for him.

Clearly, the abduction was instigated and arranged by the FBI indeed, althou[illegible] they have had an opportun[illegible]y to deny that, they ha not done so. The action was illegal and outrageous. It was an act of a police state, unworthy of the government of the United States. For various legal reasons, it has not constituted a defense in the case. But the fact is that Morton Sobell, by this action, was deprived of the rights as a citizen of a civilized country. It was also prejudicial to his trial, because it precluded the possibility of Sobell returning voluntarily. It was put up to the jury as dramatic indication that Morton Sobell had a guilty conscience and was attempting to flee. For this reason alone, it seems to me, the conviction of Morton Sobell is a tainted one, and the result should not be allowed to stand.

Secondly, there is considerable doubt concerning the evidence in this case. This is a matter on which there are, of course, differences of opinion. But I think this much is certainly a minim[illegible] that can be said, and should be said. The entire case against Mort[illegible] Sobell rested in the end upon the testimony of a single witness, Ma[illegible] Elitcher. Elitcher, who had been a classmate of Sobell, testified about two things: he testified that Sobell had asked him to supply information for transmission to a foreign country and to get others to do so also. And he testified that Sobell had taken to Julius Rosenberg a can of microfilm containing important information. What the information was, was never disclosed.

This is the only direct testimony that linked Sobell with espionage or with the rest of the alleged conspiracy. Unless this testimony is believed, there is no case, and the courts have made t[illegible] quite clear. I think a careful reading of the evidence gives one a[illegible] impression of very doubtful credibility. In the first place, Elitc[illegible] was not a reliable or unprejudiced witness. He, and it was known t[illegible] the government, had committed perjury in signing a government application, and he was subject to prosecution. He was therefore hardly in an independent or secure position so far as his relations with the prosecution were concerned.

There was no testimony that Elitcher gave information to Sobell, or Sobell to Elitcher. And there was no testimony as to wh[illegible] was in the film that was supposed to have been transmitted. Furthe[illegible] more, the whole story of the film is a highly implausible one. The story was, as given by Elitcher, that he once had gone to see Morto[illegible] Sobell, had told him that he was being followed by FBI agents, and that thereupon Sobell had taken the can of film and, along with Elitcher, had gone, and while Elitcher wited in the car, delivered it to Julius Rosenberg. It is utterly fantastic to suppose that upon being notified that Elitcher was being followed by the FBI, Sobell would have seized that particular occasion upon which to deliver the film to Rosenberg.

That is the testimony. It is, I submit, rather difficult to believe. There was also other testimony with regard to trips made by Sobell from Mexico City to other cities in Mexico in which he ma[illegible] inquiries about a trip to other countries. This was not explained, and Morton Sobell did not take the stand. It is evidence, perhaps, o[illegible] his intention to leave the United States, but it is, of course, entirely collateral and circumstantial, and without Elitcher's testimony, it comes to nothing in itself.

One cannot, therefore, escape the feeling that the jury's decision reflected the hysteria and pressures of the time more than a rational weighing of the evidence before it.

My third reason is the fact that Sobell's case was lumped with the atomic conspiracy involving the Rosenbergs. The main case of th government was against the Rosenbergs, and the main part of that cas involved the allegations of transmitting information with respect to nuclear weapons to the Soviet Union. There is not a shred of evidence that Sobell was engaged in any conspiracy with respect to atomic weapons of this sort, even if Elitcher is believed. And dragging Sobell into a trial involving the highly-charged and comple problems with respect to the allegations against the Rosenbergs was calculated and did, I think, result only in confusing and inflaming he jury.

A separate and rational consideration of Sobell's case became almost impossible. It was on this ground that Judge Jerome Frank, in the Court of Appeals, dissented from the majority opinion. He f that because the Sobell case had been combined with the atomic conspiracy case, Sobell had been given an unfair trial, and that th case, as to him, should have been reversed. With this I agree.

The fourth issue I want to raise is the question of the severi of the sentence. On the facts proved, and assuming they were true, a sentence of 30 years seems all out of proportion to the gravity o the offense. It will be remembered that Dr. Klaus Fuchs pleaded guilty to major atomic espionage and was given 14 years sentence, and is about to be released from jail. This, of course, was in England. Allan Nunn May, also in England, was given a sentence of 10 years, of which he served 6 years and 8 months. David Greengla who was obviously much further involved on his own and the govern- ment's testimony, was given 15 years. Mrs. Greenglass was not indicted at all. It seems to me that the harshness of the sentenc which I believe to be also a product of the tensions of the period should now be rectified.

Finally, there is the matter of the confinement to Alcatraz. Until 1958, some 5½ years, Sobell was imprisoned in Alcatraz. This action, it seems to me, was clearly vindictive and vicious. Alcatraz is a prison for so-called incorrigibles. It is a grim and inhuman place. There is probably no justification for Alcatraz it but there is certainly no justification for sending Morton Sobell there. Five and a half years in Alcatraz is enough penalty for a man, in my judgment, regardless of his crime. Instead of sending to Atlanta, Sobell should have been released.

These, then, are my reasons for feeling that injustice has b done to Morton Sobell: the abduction from Mexico, the flimsy natu of the evidence against him, the mingling of his case with the at conspiracy, the severity of the sentence, the cruelty of Alcatraz

As I said at the beginning, a growing number of people have reached the same conclusion that I have put forward to you now. Commencing with Dr. Harold Urey, Nobel Prize winner, and Professo

Malcolm Sharp of Chicago, these people include such well-known Americans as the late Senator Langer, Reinhold Niebuhr, Waldo Frank, Carlton Beals, Roland Bainton. They include such distinguished Europeans as Jean Paul Sartre and Lord Russell. They include the sponsors of the Sobell Committee, and thousand of others. Living and glorying in the democratic tradition, we cannot remain silent.

4

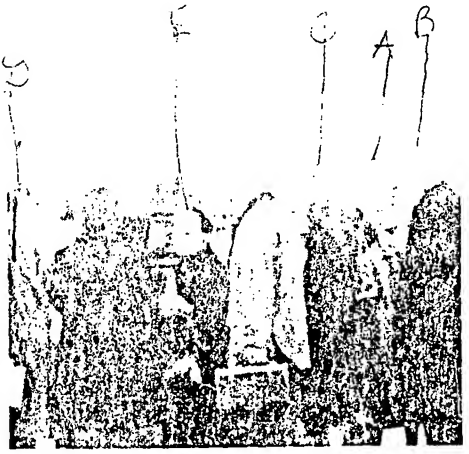
6

8

10

12

20


D
E
C
A
B